



SPEAKING

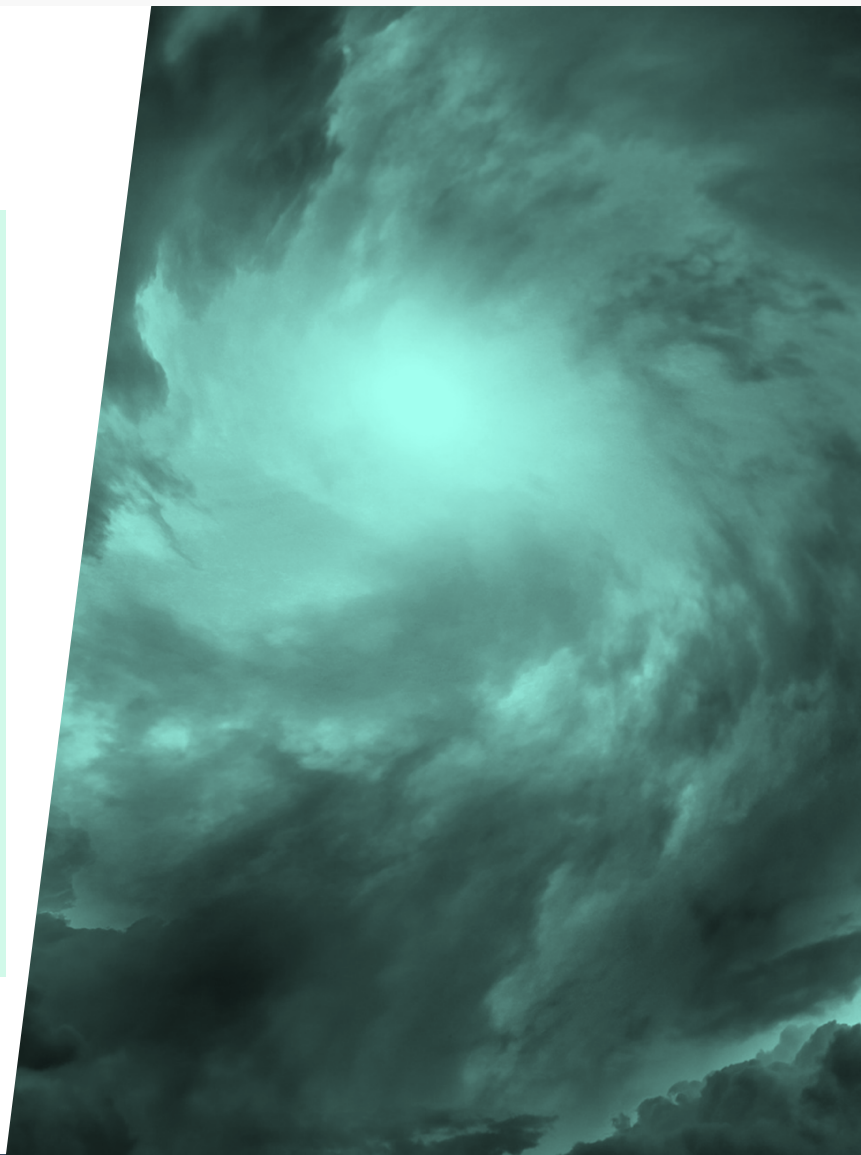
LANGUAGE
English

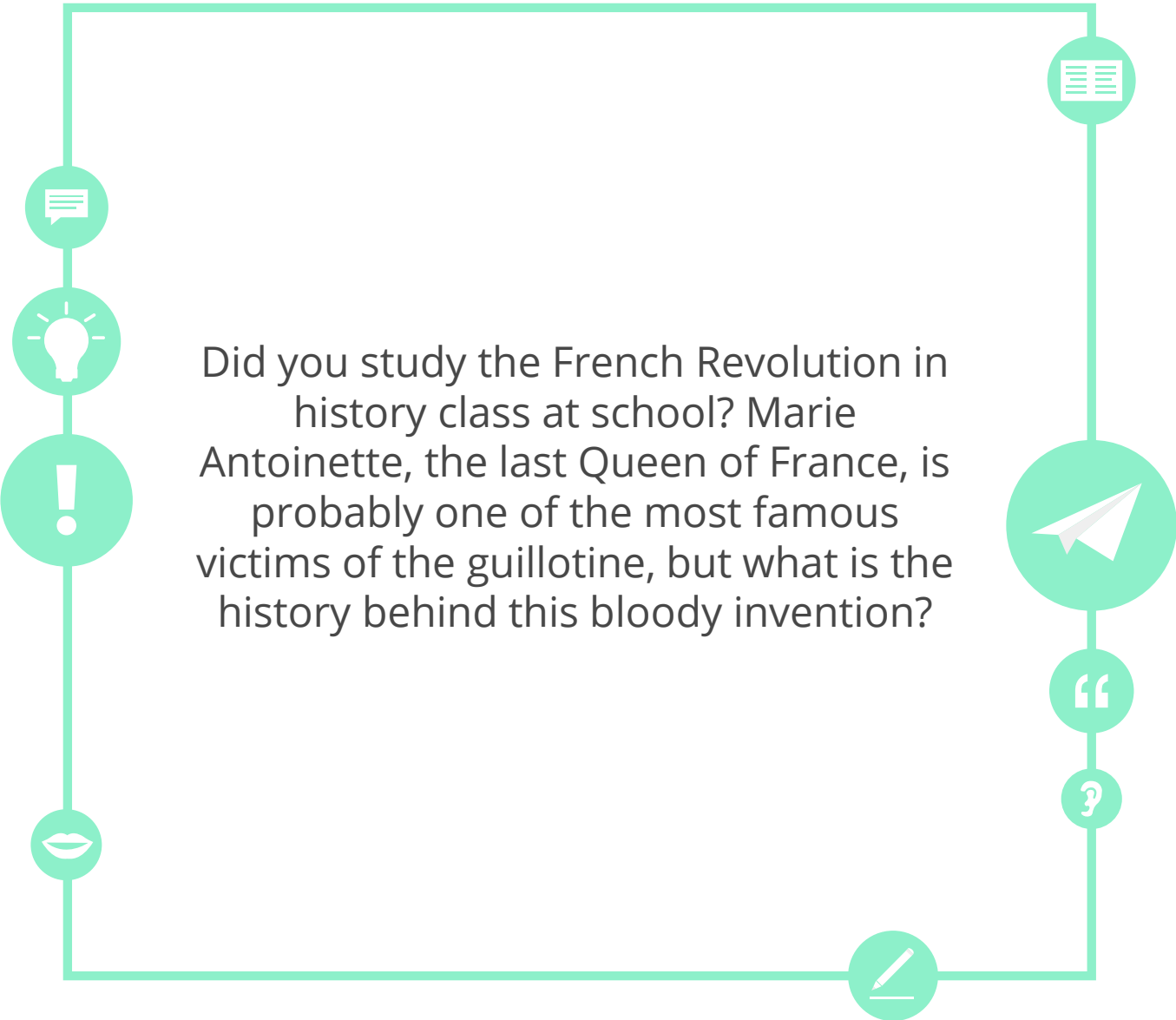




Goals

- Can read and listen to a complex text about the history of punishment and the inventions associated with it.
- Can express my own opinion in detail on these concepts.





Did you study the French Revolution in history class at school? Marie Antoinette, the last Queen of France, is probably one of the most famous victims of the guillotine, but what is the history behind this bloody invention?



France and the French Revolution



Have you ever been to France?
What do you already know
about this country and the
French Revolution?



Building materials

Do you know what materials were used to build a guillotine? Have you ever built anything from scratch before? Look at the pictures below and describe how these things have been built, and with what materials.



construction



materials



Great inventions

Have you ever invented anything before? Or have you got any ideas for great inventions?

In your opinion, what are the top 3 inventions of the last 500 years, and why?



The invention of the guillotine

Grisly and gruesome: those are probably two of the first words that spring to mind when thinking about the guillotine. However, perhaps one of the most **astonishing** facts about this violent method of execution is that during the early days of the French Revolution, its **namesake**, Dr Joseph-Ignace Guillotin, actually **lobbied** for its use on humanitarian grounds.



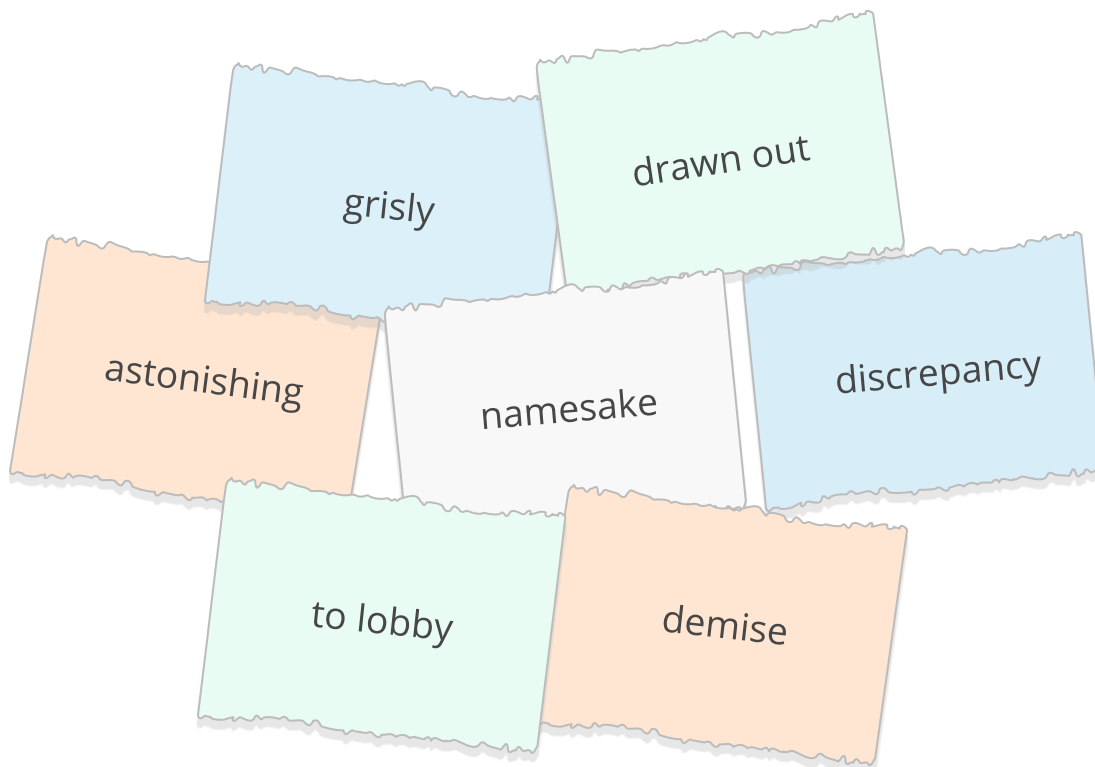
The invention of the guillotine

Guillotin spoke of the **discrepancy** between the methods of capital punishment used for common criminals as opposed to members of the aristocracy. He argued it was unfair to make ordinary people suffer executions using painful and **drawn out** methods, such as burning at the stake or hanging, whilst the more elite members of society were granted a quicker and less painful death by decapitation. At the time, richer criminals could even ensure a speedier **demise** by bribing their executioners, supposedly thus ensuring a swift sword. In 1791, Guillotin's arguments for egalitarianism in capital punishment won through and the guillotine was made the only legal form of capital punishment in France.



Vocabulary review

Look at the words below, they are all from the text you have just read.
Do you know these words already?
Can you use them in a simple sentence?





The history of capital punishment

The text speaks about the use of the guillotine in France. What do you know about capital punishment in your home country; was it or is it still used? How do you think you would have felt if you had had to witness an execution by guillotine?



execution



torture



public spectacle



deterrent



Guillotin the egalitarian

Read the quote below, from an ally of Guillotin's. Can you summarise Guillotin's argument for the guillotine in your own words?

// Never in my life had I seen such a horrific spectacle, and I hope never to do so again. Execution by hanging is abhorrent. In a civilised society such as ours, efforts must be made to ensure everyone is treated equally and with dignity. Even criminals should enjoy our compassion.

//



Time to debate

Look at both quotes below. Can you play devil's advocate, and argue the case for each different viewpoint? What reasons might each person give to back up their opinion?

// Never in my life had I seen such a horrific spectacle, and I hope never to do so again. Execution by hanging is abhorrent. In a civilised society such as ours, efforts must be made to ensure everyone is treated equally and with dignity. Even criminals should enjoy our compassion. //

// When an individual has sinned gravely, a fitting punishment must be found. Furthermore, hanging acts as a deterrent, and reduces the risk of the same heinous crime being committed by others. //



Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension



Listening exercise

Listen carefully while your teacher reads the rest of the text and look at the words below. Afterwards, see if you can remember an interesting fact about Halifax that relates to each word. Tell your teacher.



invention

petty crime

Oliver Cromwell

public opinion



Punishment as a deterrent



Most people would probably agree that execution was a very harsh punishment for committing a petty crime. Think back to your school days. What kinds of punishments were used? Were they effective?



Looking back to childhood influences

What kind of toys did you play with as a child? Were there any toys you weren't allowed to play with?

Do you think that some toys can encourage violent tendencies in children?



Behaviour and outside influences

Although toy guillotines were popular toys for children at the time, some people argued that they were a bad influence. Today, people still worry about the effect of outside influences on children's minds. Look at the boxes below and discuss the supposed negative impact these things might have on children. What do you think? Should these things be banned for children?



violent video
games and films

advertising

smart phones

toy weapons



Opinion speech

You are at a public forum about protecting children in your society. Give a short speech either in favour of or against banning one of the four things mentioned in the activity above for under 18-year-olds.



I feel strongly about this issue, and I want to explain why...

freedom

consequences

impressionable

restrictive



Crime and punishment reforms

Think about the criminal justice system in your country. If you could reform it, what changes would you make, and why?



Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!



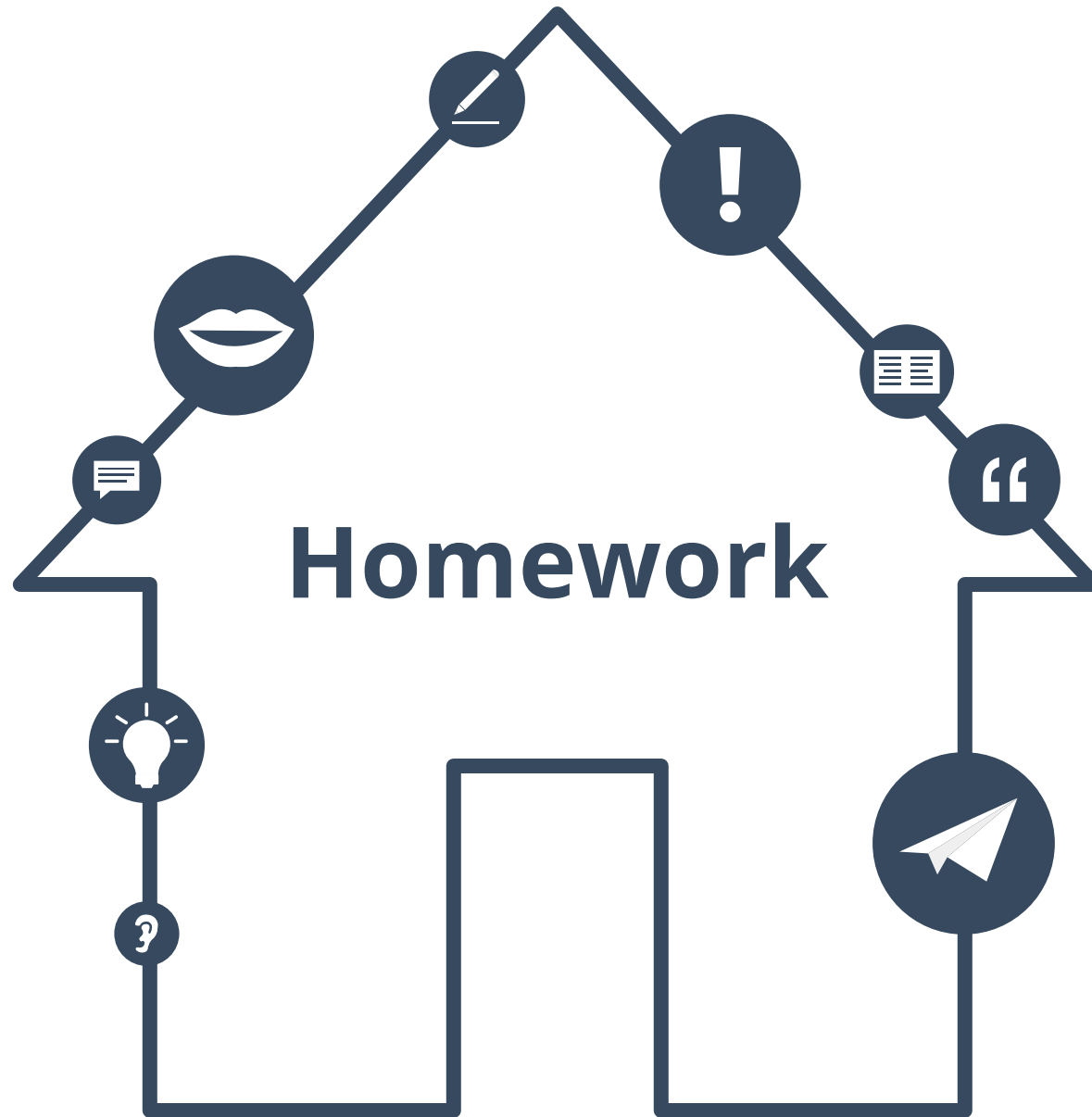


Transcription

Although the guillotine rose to prominence during the French Revolution, this wasn't the first time in history that decapitation by machine was widely practised as a form of capital punishment. For centuries **prior** to this, similar devices had been used in different countries around the world.

One of the most famous of these was called the Halifax Gibbet, and was used in the town of the same name, Halifax, in England, during the 16th century. The inventor of the Halifax Gibbet is unknown but between the years 1286 and 1650, around 100 people in the town were to be executed by this method. Due to local laws in this particular area, capital punishment was even **deemed** an appropriate method of dealing with those convicted of small crimes, such as petty theft. However, by 1650 the general **consensus** amongst the public was that this was much too extreme a punishment for minor crimes. So, in 1650, Oliver Cromwell forbade the use of the Halifax Gibbet for such criminal acts.

Nowadays we look back with horror on the guillotine but perhaps one of the most unusual facts about this device is that it used to be a popular children's toy. Children would play with **replica** guillotines and use them to decapitate dolls or teddy bears. However, it's probably safe to say that, along with the guillotine itself, these toys won't be making a return to the market any time soon!





The spectator

Even though public executions were incredibly violent people still often came to watch them. Imagine you are in the audience of an execution by guillotine. Write a first hand account here, talk about the atmosphere, and how you felt personally, did you want to be there or were you accompanying someone?

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Homework evaluation activity

How did you find this lesson? Which parts did you find most challenging? Which were easiest? Give your feedback here.

A vertical sheet of paper with a spiral binding on the left side and horizontal lines for writing.



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