

# Exploring the history of prisoner education transcript

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In the early 1800s, prison officials, social reformers and MPs at Westminster came up with a radical idea to teach men, women and children in British and Irish prisons how to read, write and do sums. Over the next 100 years, prison schools were established across the United Kingdom. Prison libraries were formed and opportunities for self-improvement for prisoners were created. Why was education introduced in prisons? How effective was the teaching and learning in the prison? And how was education accommodated within an institution and a regime which aimed to punish prisoners and to deter would-be criminals?

Find out in this free course, Exploring the history of prisoner education, available on OpenLearn. Come with me, Rosalind Crone, on a tour of Lincoln Castle Jail to learn about the birth of the modern prison, and with it, prisoner education. Study the evidence on the establishment, character and value of prisoner education in the 1800s for yourself. Apply your learning to the present. Can an understanding of the history of prisoner education help us to explain its role and to improve its effectiveness in the present?