

TURTON SCHOOL HISTORY DEPARTMENT – KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER – JACK THE RIPPER

The Murders	The Suspects	The Investigation
<p>Jack the Ripper stalked the streets of Whitechapel in London in 1888 and committed 5 murders so gruesome they still shock the world today. Whitechapel was a poor area of winding streets and narrow alleyways. It was filled with pubs, doss houses (hostels where beds were rented one night at a time), and prostitutes.</p> <p>London was a highly polluted place at the time and a thick smog filled the streets, making it difficult to see what's ahead of you.</p> <p>The Victims</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mary Ann Nichols– 31st August 1888 Mary was found dead in the middle of the street. She had had her throat cut and her belly sliced open. 2. Annie Chapman– 8th September 1888 Annie Chapman was found in a yard, again with her throat cut and her belly sliced open. The fact that many people were close by suggests the killer was silent. Elizabeth Long reported seeing Annie talking to a foreign gentlemen with a shabby genteel appearance. 3. Elizabeth Stride– 30th September 1888 Elizabeth Stride was found dead in a pub back yard. Her throat had been cut however the killer had been disturbed before he could mutilate her body. This seemed to anger him and he went in search of another victim. 4. Catherine Eddowes– 30th September 1888 Later that same night Catherine Eddowes was murdered in Mitre Square. The killer was clearly frustrated by his earlier failure as the cuts were deeper and more frantic than the others. 5. Mary Jane Kelly– 9th November 1888 This was the most gruesome of the murders. Mary Kelly invited the murderer back to her home where the murder took place. Jack the Ripper spent hours mutilating her body. This was the most gruesome murder by far. 	<p>Montague John Druiitt: Growing up in a family of doctors, Montague John Druiitt became a lawyer. He failed to earn a living and so took up a position as a school teacher which he was later fired from. He was found drowned in the Thames and left a suicide note stating that he feared he was going insane. It is estimated he killed himself shortly after the final murder took place.</p> <p>The Royal Conspiracy: In this theory, Prince Albert Victor secretly married a commoner named Annie Crook and had a child called Alice. When Queen Victoria found out about the marriage she had it declared invalid. Three members of the Royal Household (Sir William Gull, John Netly, and Sir Robert Anderson) murdered the 5 Ripper victims to keep them from exposing their knowledge of the child (Mary Kelly being believed to have been the girls' nanny). The Ripper story and investigation is a cover for their actions.</p> <p>Prince Albert Victor: In this theory Prince Albert Victor is not a heartbroken husband but the murdered. It is claimed he caught an STI which made him go insane. He is believed to have been locked away after the double murder but escaped to commit the final murder. He matches some of the physical descriptions of Jack the Ripper.</p> <p>Aaron Kosminski: A Polish Jew who had lived in the area for years. He was declared insane and locked up in a mental hospital. He was identified by a witness as being Jack the Ripper but the witness refused to give evidence in court. He matches some of the descriptions of Jack the Ripper.</p>	<p>The investigation suffered from the limitations of the police force and difficult circumstances.</p> <p>Limitations of the Police Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ Problems with the new police force “ Police did not offer any reward “ Abuse of evidence “ Forensic Evidence “ The Metropolitan Police, known as Scotland Yard and the police in the heart of London did not work together to solve the case. <p>Things outside of their control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ Red herrings (they initially investigated a man nicknamed “Leather Apron”) “ The Press “ Unreliable witnesses