

## World Legal History Quiz WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?

**1. Draco's Law**—This Athenian politician and law codifier prescribed the death penalty for even trivial offenses; so severe that the word “draconian” has come to mean an unreasonably harsh law.

a. 1865

**2. The Earliest Known Legal Decision**—A clay tablet reveals the case of the murder of a temple employee by three men. The victim’s wife knew of the murder but remained silent. All four eventually were charged with murder, but only the men were executed because witnesses proved the woman had no part in the murder.

b. 1689



**3. The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial**—A special panel of eight judges convened in this German town to try Nazi officers for crimes against peace, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during World War II.

c. 1692

**4. The Thirteenth Amendment**—By this change to the U.S. Constitution, slavery was abolished in the United States.

d. 1791

**5. Fingerprinting is Invented**—Fingerprinting was in use by this time in China as a means of identifying people.

e. 621 B.C.

**6. The Salem Witch Trials**—In Salem, Massachusetts, more than 300 people were accused of witchcraft, of whom 20 were executed, including a priest.



f. 1945



**7. The Trial of Socrates**—The 70-year old philosopher was charged with corrupting the youth and for not believing in the gods. A jury of 501



citizens found him guilty and sentenced him to death.

g. 1787

**8. The English Bill of Rights**—This bill was a precursor to the U.S. Bill of Rights and limited to Parliament the right to raise money through taxation.

h. 1850 B.C.

**9. The U.S. Constitution**—The seven articles of the U.S. Constitution were signed in Philadelphia.

i. 339 B.C.

**10. The U.S. Bill of Rights**—These amendments to the Constitution declared the rights of free speech, freedom of the press and of religion, a right to trial by one’s peers and protection against “cruel and unusual punishment” or unreasonable searches or seizures.

j. 700

Answers: 1. e, 2. h, 3. f, 4. a, 5. j, 6. c, 7. i, 8. b, 9. g, 10. d.

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Let our lives  
be in  
accordance  
with our  
convictions of  
right, each  
striving to  
carry out our  
principles.  
—Women’s  
suffragist  
Lucretia Mott

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