

The Crucible Webquestionnaire I

Be prepared to answer the following questions in complete sentences. You'll have to be creative in tapping your ingenuity as well as the resources the web makes available. The trial begins – be glad you'll not be tried for witchcraft!

Part One: General Background on the early colonists

1. In what county of Massachusetts is Salem located?
2. Of what religious persuasion were most of the early colonists?
3. Why did many of the early “pilgrims” flee their countries of origin?
4. What are some of the townships located within close proximity of Salem?

Part Two: The “Red Scare” – “Indians” and Communists

“At this time in America, the New England colonies were recovering from a serious Native American uprising lead by the Wampanoag tribe . . . which had come close to eliminating the colonies in Massachusetts . . .”

5. What major life-threatening event had both the early colonists and 1950s U. S. citizens faced?
6. Describe the punishment of those found guilty of spreading communism in the 1950s? What do we refer to that kind of punishment as?

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7. What political committee was set up to investigate charges of communism?

8. Have there been attempts to ban *The Crucible*? When and where?

Part Three: Specific questions about the trial

9. How were “witches” punished? What is popularly believed about the method of execution?

10. Were the people persecuted as witches merely social misfits and outcasts?

11. Were there adults as well as teenagers among “the afflicted” (i.e. those claiming to see spirits)?