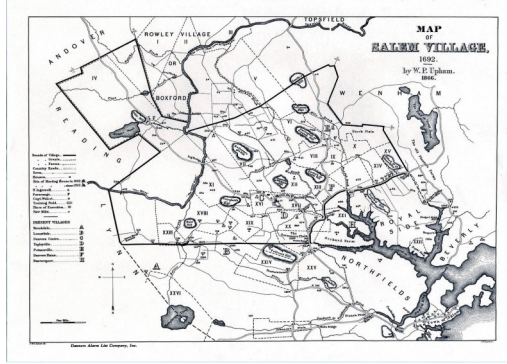


SALEM WITCH TRIALS WEBQUEST



What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the name Salem, Massachusetts? For most people it is the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. Twenty-four people were put to death as a result of these trials. It was a dark time in the history of Massachusetts.

Using the web address below, read about how panic and hysteria lead to very tragic consequences.

http://www.ducksters.com/history/colonial_america/salem_witch_trials.php

1. The Salem witch trials took place in which colony and primarily in which town?
2. When did the Salem witch trials take place?
3. Did the people really believe in witches?

SALEM WITCH TRIALS WEBQUEST

4. Describe the strange behavior of Betty Parris and Abigail Williams.

5. When the girls interrupted church, what did the people believe was happening.

6. What did the two girls blame their condition on?

7. Who did the girls blame for casting a spell on them?

8. What did Tituba do that added to the growing panic?

Using the information from the webpage fill in the chart.

Tests Used to Determine if a Person Was a Witch

| Name of Test | Details of the Test |
|----------------------|--|
| Touch Test | |
| | They would dunk an accused witch in water until they finally confessed. |
| Lord's Prayer | |
| | |
| | |
| Pressing | |

SALEM WITCH TRIALS WEBQUEST

9. It is estimated that how many people lost their lives during these trials?

10. Describe how and why the trials finally came to an end.

11. There are five interesting facts about the trials listed on this page. List the three you find the most interesting. Of these three, choose the one that is the most surprising to you and explain why.

SALEM WITCH TRIALS WEBQUEST

Another Point of View

There have been many attempts to understand and explain the hysteria during the Salem trials. Using the link below, answer the following questions about a possible reason for some of the strange behavior.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/witches-curse-clues-evidence/1501/>

12. What is ergot and what can be the result of eating it?

13. What food would have been tainted?

14. Do you agree or disagree that ergot poisoning is a possible explanation for the events around the trials. State your opinion and give at least two supporting reasons for your conclusion.