

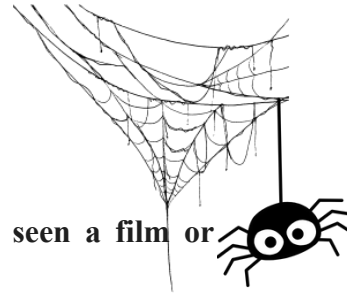


HALLOWEEN

 Activities



# Salem witch trials Video B2



## Before watching activity:

Do you know anything about the witch trials in Salem? Have you ever seen a film or read a book about this dark period of history?



## Now watch the video and answer the questions that follow:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVd8kuufBhM>

1 What choice did those accused of witchcraft in Salem have to make if they wanted to avoid being executed?

2 Where and when did these events take place?

3 How did the Puritans view the Devil's influence on the world?

4 How many were the so-called “afflicted” girls?

5 What was the fate of Sarah Osbourne and Sarah Good after being accused of witchcraft?

6 Were the authorities interested in investigating the charges or did they have another priority?

7 What kind of evidence did the court accept during the Salem Witch Trials, even though it was considered dubious?

8 What happened to those who dared to speak out?



**9 How many people were executed by spring 1693?**

**10 What led to the suspension of the trials by the governor of Massachusetts colony?**

**11 What is the most upsetting fact concerning these witch trials in your opinion?**

**12 How do you think powerful people nowadays use the power of fear to manipulate human perception?**

**13 How do you feel about what you learnt from the video? Express your ideas with justification.**



**Vocabulary about witchcraft: Match the phrases to their definitions**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Magic                   | A. A liquid mixture created for magical purposes         |
| 2. Spell                   | B. A woman, believed to have magical powers              |
| 3. Potion                  | C. Abilities that are mysterious and beyond the ordinary |
| 4. Cauldron                | D. A powerful phrase used to cause a magical effect      |
| 5. Witch                   | E. A large, round container used by witches for potions  |
| 6. Sorcery                 | F. To create a magical liquid mixture                    |
| 7. To cast a spell         | G. The use of supernatural powers                        |
| 8. To brew a potion        | H. Magic used for evil or dangerous purposes             |
| 9. To summon spirits       | I. A very old action performed for magical purposes      |
| 10. To practice witchcraft | J. To bring spirits into the physical world              |
| 11. Dark magic             | K. The practice of magic or performing supernatural acts |
| 12. Ancient rituals        | L. To use a magical phrase to produce a specific result  |
| 13. Mystical powers        | M. The use of supernatural forces to influence things    |

 **HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

# Salem witch trials Video      Teacher's B2

## **Answers to the questions:**

- 1 The choice was between giving a false confession or risking a public hanging.
- 2 In the village of Salem Massachusetts between February 1692-May 1693
- 3 The Puritans believed that the Devil wreaked havoc through human agents known as witches.
- 4 There were 12 girls
- 5 Sarah Osbourne died in prison, while Sarah Good was convicted and hanged shortly after her baby died.
- 6 They were not really interested in thoroughly investigating the charges, instead they preferred that the accused confessed and asked for forgiveness.
- 7 The court accepted all kinds of dubious evidence, including “spectral evidence” where the girls raved when touched by invisible ghosts.
- 8 They came under suspicion
- 9 Twenty people were executed (14 women and 6 men)
- 10 The governor suspended the trials when his own wife was accused, leading to the release of prisoners and the end of arrests.
- 11 Students answers may vary. Some may mention the fact that adults accepted wild accusations by children as hard evidence

## **Vocabulary activity:**

1. Magic - M
2. Spell - D
3. Potion - A
4. Cauldron - E
5. Witch - B
6. Sorcery - G
7. To cast a spell - L
8. To brew a potion - F
9. To summon spirits - J
10. To practice witchcraft - K
11. Dark magic - H
12. Ancient rituals - I
13. Mystical powers - C



**The video was made by the organisation TED-Ed**

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