

Pre-reading: Background Information for “The Crucible”

Instructions: Research the following questions and answer them. Turn in on Archie when finished. Have a great day! (:

1. Review what you know about Massachusetts in the colonial period of early American history. What religious period and political values held Massachusetts together? What is a theocracy?
2. What were the beliefs and attitudes about witches and witchcraft held by many people in the New England colonies in the late seventeenth century? What characteristics did witches supposedly manifest? How were they identified? How were they punished?
3. Salem, Massachusetts did not have a speedy system of communication with other towns, and the wilderness was not far from its borders in 1692. How did this isolation affect activities and attitudes in the town?
4. Describe the political climate of the 1950s. Why did Senator McCarthy become a powerful figure? How did he influence politics in the ‘fifties?
5. Why is it easier to relinquish responsibility for your actions when you are part of a group?
6. Based off the research you have conducted, how do you predict this story will play out?
7. Do you believe there is such a thing as witchcraft? Explain your answer.