

name: _____

class: _____

date: _____

Salem's Dark Past



The Salem witch trials took place in 1692. This _____ occurred in Massachusetts, where a group of young girls claimed to be possessed by the devil. They accused several _____ of witchcraft. The community was gripped by fear and superstition. Trials were held to determine the _____ of the accused. Many of the accused were innocent. The court used questionable methods to extract _____. Twenty people were executed as a result. The witch hunt caused mass hysteria. Eventually, the public realized the _____ of their ways. The Salem witch trials remain a dark chapter in American history.

The Salem witch trials began when a few young _____ in Salem Village claimed to be afflicted by supernatural forces. Their bizarre behavior and mysterious illnesses sparked _____ among the villagers. The local doctor, unable to find a medical explanation, suggested the cause was witchcraft. This _____ led to a series of accusations against various members of the community. Fear and paranoia spread rapidly as more _____ were accused and imprisoned. The legal proceedings were heavily influenced by superstition and a lack of concrete _____. Spectral evidence, or testimony that the spirit or specter of the accused was seen committing _____, was commonly accepted in court. Many of the accused had no way to defend themselves against such intangible _____. As the trials progressed, some began to question the legitimacy of the accusations and the integrity of the _____. By the time the hysteria subsided, the damage had been done. The Salem witch trials are remembered as a cautionary _____ about the dangers of mass hysteria and the breakdown of due process in the face of _____.

suspicion court charges error event evidence diagnosis people
confessions women tale girls witchcraft guilt fear