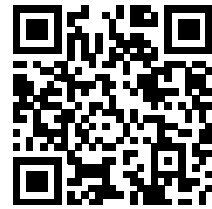


name: _____

class: _____

date: _____

The Role of Hysteria in the Salem Witch Trials



In 1692, the town of Salem in Massachusetts was gripped by _____ . This widespread panic led to the infamous Salem witch trials. The hysteria began when a group of young _____ in Salem Village claimed to be possessed by the devil. They accused several local women of practicing _____ . The first three women accused were Tituba, an enslaved woman, Sarah Good, a homeless beggar, and _____ Osborne, an elderly woman. The community's fear and suspicion quickly spread, leading to the arrest of many more _____. The trials were marked by a reliance on spectral evidence, where accusations were based on _____ and visions. The judges and authorities believed the accusers without question, which fueled the hysteria even more. As a _____ , more than 200 people were accused of witchcraft, and 20 were executed. Most of the accused were _____ , but men and children were also targeted. The governor of the colony, William Phips, eventually intervened. He halted the _____ and later declared a day of fasting and soul-searching for the tragedy that had occurred. The _____ witch trials remain a powerful example of how fear and hysteria can lead to grave _____ and the persecution of innocent people.

women dreams witchcraft result injustice Sarah Salem people
girls hysteria trials