# Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

American Studies English 11

*The Crucible*

Pre-reading Webquest

Directions: Type in the address for each website, and use the information provided to complete the following questions/tasks in order to take an in-depth look at historical background of *The Crucible*.

1. Arthur Miller

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/arthur-miller/none-without-sin/56/>

1. Which historical events influenced Miller’s work?
2. Which of Miller’s plays won the Pulitzer Prize, the New York Drama Critics’ Circle Award, and Tony awards?
3. What is *The Crucible* an allegory for?
4. What is the setting of *The Crucible*?
5. What is a common motif in Miller’s plays?
6. McCarthyism

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/arthur-miller/mccarthyism/484/>

* + - 1. What political system did Americans fear in the 1940s and 1950s?

* + - 1. Who was Joseph McCarthy?

* + - 1. What was McCarthy’s public accusation?

* + - 1. What was the political practice known as McCarthyism?

* + - 1. Which two groups of people were labeled as communist sympathizers and as a result found it difficult to continue working?

1. Miller and McCarthyism

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/arthur-miller/career-timeline/57/>

* + - 1. Why was the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) formed in 1938?

* + - 1. Why were the “Hollywood 10” (a group of 10 movie producers, directors and writers) blacklisted in 1947? What happened to them as a result of being blacklisted?
      2. In 1951, Miller and Kazan traveled to Hollywood to sell the screenplay, *The Hook.*  Were they successful? Why?

* + - 1. What event in 1952 influenced the dramatic arc in *The Crucible?*

* + - 1. When did *The Crucible* premiere on Broadway?

* + - 1. What was Miller convicted of by HUAC?

1. The Puritans

http://www.pbs.org/godinamerica/people/puritans.html

* 1. How were the Puritans similar to the Pilgrims?

* 1. What was the name of the colony the Puritans established?

* 1. What were their essential beliefs?
* Natural Depravity: “All human beings were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* Predestination: “God had chosen a few people, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,” for salvation. The rest of humanity was condemned to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* Conversion: “Puritans lived in a constant state of spiritual anxiety, searching for signs of God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The experience of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was considered an important sign that an individual had been saved.”
* Covenants (agreements with God): “Salvation…demanded each individual to plumb the very depth of his heart and soul. This ‘Covenant of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’ contrasted with the ‘Covenant of Works’ which stressed the importance of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
  1. What kind of authority, which also known as a theocracy, governed the Puritan commonwealth and demanded devout conformity?

1. The Salem Witch Trials

<http://www.salemwitchmuseum.com/education/index.php>

* 1. Whose daughter and niece became sick and diagnosed with bewitchment in 1692?

* 1. Witchcraft was a felony. As a result of the convictions at witch trials, nineteen people were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, one person was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and seventeen others \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Which four factors “created a fertile ground for fear and suspicion” in the Massachusetts Bay Colony?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   1. What was spectral evidence?

1. “Why I Wrote *The Crucible*: An Artist's Answer to Politics” by Arthur Miller

<http://www.newyorker.com/archive/1996/10/21/1996_10_21_158_TNY_CARDS_000373902>

* 1. According to Miller, why is it ironic that *The Crucible* is now a film?

* 1. How does Miller compare himself to John Proctor?

* 1. What are some parallels that Miller draws between Salem witch-hunts and 1950s McCarthyism?

* 1. Why does *The Crucible* still appeal to contemporary audiences?

1. “You’re Accused!”

If you have finished all of the above items on the webquest, you may go to the following site and play “You’re Accused!”

http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/salem/accused!.html