**In Search of History: The Salem Witch Trials**

1. In what year did the Salem Witch Trials occur?
2. In Europe between the 14th and 16th centuries, how many people were executed because they were thought to be witches?
3. What is a witch hunt?
4. What was one sign of witchcraft according to the 1486 book, The Hammer of Witches?
5. What is “swimming the witch?”
6. Why was witchcraft considered an act of treason? (Hint: witchcraft goes against the Church – who controlled England’s church during the 1600s?)
7. Where and when was the first witch trial in America?
8. Who was Cotton Mather and what is his connection to witchcraft?
9. What was the town of Salem, MA like in the late 1600s?
10. What was the Puritan ideal of women?
11. Why was it thought that Puritan women were more likely than men to become witches?
12. Who was Tituba and what did she show/tell the Parris girls?
13. How did the young Parris girls behave after hearing Tituba’s stories? What did they do?
14. Originally, the Puritan townsfolk thought the girls were trying to fight off witchcraft with their behavior. What did Reverend Parris order the girls to do?
15. What is spectral evidence?
16. How did the afflicted Parris girls react every time Sarah Good denied being a witch? Why is this important?
17. What was different about the first people accused of witchcraft and those later accused?
18. In the spring of 1692, how many people were arrested/accused of witchcraft in Salem?
19. How old was the youngest person accused?
20. What happened if you spoke out for someone who was accused of witchcraft?
21. Who was Bridget Bishop? What was her punishment?
22. What was the one sure way to survive a witchcraft trial if you were accused?
23. How many people were accused of witchcraft during the trials? How many people died?
24. Were witches burned at the stake? Why?
25. One man died in a horrific manner with stones. Describe what happened to him.
26. What did Increase Mather do to prevent people from being wrongly accused and convicted of witchcraft?
27. What is one possible reason/explanation for why the young afflicted girls behaved the way they did during the trials and accused people of witchcraft?