**The Salem Witch Trials Video**

1. Approximately how many people in Europe were executed for being witches?

40-50,000

2. What were two supposed ways of knowing if someone were a witch?

Devil’s Mark (birthmark, mole) or Witches Teat (3rd nipple)—they shaved the entire body to look for these marks; swimming of the witch (test = if sank/drowned innocent; if floated, guilty)

3. What religious group came to America in 1629 to start an English colony?

Puritans

4. What type of government did this group have?

theocracy (religion and state is NOT separate)

5. Where and when did the first witch trials in Massachusetts take place?

Charlestown, 1648, midwife Margaret Jones accused of having a “malevolent touch,” making people have nausea and deafness, hanged as a witch

6. Who was Cotton Mather, and what did he write?

Puritan minister from Boston who wrote the book Memorable Providence, based on a case in which he investigated. A Ms. Glover was accused of being a witch. The book tells of the behavior of witches, behavior of victims, how to identify witches, etc. People of Salem are familiar with this book, influenced them.

7. Name two things that caused anxiety and/or tension in Salem Village.

Political unrest/instability (charter revoked and reinstated later, arguing factions in town, Indian raids from forest); rigid religious practices (Puritanism, feared devil lurked in the forest. lived in FEAR)

8. What was the Puritan attitude toward women?

MISOGYNISTIC (MISOGYNY) – extreme prejudice against women – They believed that women were to be seen and not heard, subservient/extremely submissive to husbands, couldn’t hold positions of authority in church or town government, and because of that could be easily influenced/led to worship the devil, seen as weaker minded and overall WEAK

9. How did the Salem witch trials of 1692 begin?

A group of young girls, who had gotten in trouble by Rev. Parris, started accusing people of the town of being witches. Tituba (former slave, servant) started telling the girls tales of her childhood in Barbados that included voodoo. She broke egg and put white in water for them to see the faces of their future husbands; imaginations went from there.

10. Who were the accusers in the trial, and what was their motivation?

young girls—Abigail, Ruth Putman, Betty Parris, Mary Warren; Got excited over their interactions with Tituba and her tales and then felt guilty because they knew this was wrong and started blaming others. Later got “drunk with power,” enjoyed their new status and started naming people for fun, revenge (named people who were outcasts of society, or that they had grudges against, land issues)

11. Why is Bridget Bishop important?

1st victim of Salem witch trials in 1692, a strong, independent thinking woman, property owner (went against what Puritans thought women should be); had been accused of witchcraft in the past, hanged

12. What is spectral evidence?

Spectral evidence has to do with “spirits” that only the accusers could see. Astral projection.

13. How did the accusers react during the trial?

fits (seizures), unearthly screams, pandemonium until the accused confessed

14. What was the only way to survive after being accused of witchcraft?

lie and confess to witchcraft because then your fate would be in God’s hands (but lost property, outcast of society, kicked out of the church, couldn’t be buried in holy cemetery)

15. Why was Reverend George Burroughs important during the witch trials?

Former Salem Puritan minister who had been living in Maine. They arrested him, brought him to trial in Salem, he recited The Lord’s Prayer verbatim (witches weren’t supposed to be able to do that), hanged him anyway as a witch.

16. In all, how many people were accused and executed during the Salem witch trials?

More than 200 accused, 24 executed (19 hanged, 4 died in prison, 1 pressed)

17. In what different ways were people executed?

hanging, pressing (NO burning at the stake EVER in America -- that happened in Middle Ages Europe; King Henry VIII did away that way of execution)

18. Why did people stop believing the girls’ testimony?

Their testimony began to be too outrageous, and they started accusing upstanding, higher class members of society

19. Who was the only accuser to apologize for her false accusation during the trial?

1706, Ann Putman, Jr (Ruth), at age 26, apologized, blaming the devil for her behavior

20. What important lessons can be learned from the trials?

Now you are innocent until proven guilty (other side has to prove your guilt rather than you having to prove your innocence, even though you have to defend your innocence); Just because people are different doesn’t make them evil (don’t jump to conclusions or judge people without knowing them); Just because you go to church doesn’t make you holy. Examine people’s motive (children CAN and DO lie); Don’t jump on bandwagon (THINK for yourself).