**THE SALEM WITCHCRAFT TRIALS**

Directions: Fill in the missing words, names, and terms in the story about the Salem witchcraft trials. All answers are hidden on the word search puzzles, either horizontally or vertically. Begin with Puzzle 1, which contains the words, names, and terms needed to complete spaces 1-10. Find and circle the answers on the puzzle first, then use these words to complete the statements. Continue in the same way with the other sentences and puzzles.

**Puzzle 1: Belief in Witchcraft**

Very few people today believe in (1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. However, hundreds of years ago, many colonists really thought witched lived in American towns. These people believed in witchcraft because they did not understand (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and medicine as we do today. During the 1600s, the colonists often did not know why a person became sick, why a crop failed, or what caused a destructive (3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Some people explained these happenings as being the work of witches. It was thought that the (4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had told the witches to carry out evil deeds in the towns where they lived.

One particular town – Salem, Massachusetts – was the scene of some strange events in the year 1692. Salem was the first town in America where the Puritans settled. The Puritans were very (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people. They read from the Bible every day and went to church each Sunday. They feared God would (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them if they did wrong. Laws were strict and violators were severely punished. Townspeople who committed serious crimes might even have their nose or an (7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cut off.

The Puritans of Salem were always on guard against the work of the devil. A (8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ named Cotton Mather did much to excite the people against the evil ways of the devil and his witches. A witch hysteria began when a slave girl told strange stories to a group of young girls. The girls became so upset by the stories that they shivered and (9) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at night. A doctor decided the girls were bewitched. The slave girl and two other women were accused of practicing witchcraft. They were put on trial, found guilty, and (10) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on Gallows Hill.



**Puzzle 2: The Practice of Witchcraft**

Those who believed in witchcraft thought a witch could harm her victims in many ways. She might give them a magic potion, and make them fall in (11) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against their will. Or she might make a doll-like figure which looked like someone she wanted to (12)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. When she would stick a pin in to the figure, or burn it, or cut it, the victim would feel the prick, or the (13) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or the cut. Others who were accused of being witches were thought to have an “evil eye.” It was believed they could harm someone just by (14) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at them. Three people from Salem – a girl, her mother, and her grandmother – were found guilty of having an evil eye. Certain townspeople said that when one the three looked at them, they became violently (15) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Witches were thought to be able to hide themselves by turning into (16) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Another belief was they could ride through the air on a pole or a (17) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and travel as fast and as high as they wanted. The devil supposedly held them up. People thought the witched had secretly met with the devil and agreed to serve him rather than God. One girl who was put on trial testified she had flown through the air on a (18) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. But the person who questioned the girl scared her into saying whatever they wanted to hear. Many women on trial (19) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to being witches. But they did so only because they hoped their punishment would then be less severe. The women were afraid if they denied being witches, they would be called liars and given a harsher sentences, perhaps even (20) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.



**Puzzle 3: The Witchcraft Trials**

Townspeople believed a witch was always a woman. A man could practice some forms of (21) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but was never regarded as actually being a witch. Several methods were used to determine if a woman was a witch. The accused person might be forced to have pins stuck in her skin. The pins would be pushed into moles or other marks on the skin. If no (22) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was felt, the accused person supposedly was a witch. Another test was to tie up a woman and throw her into deep water. If she (23) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, she was a witch. If she sank to the bottom and drowned, she was not a witch. It was considered better to have (24) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than to be identified as a witch.

Some defendants who were convicted of witchcraft were sentenced to death. In (25) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 19 women were hanged. One man, who was accused of practicing witchcraft, was pressed to death between (26) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that had heavy weights on top. Another 150 persons were sent to (27) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

There were several (28) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the Salem witchcraft trials. One was a man named Samuel Sewall. Five years after the trials ended, he confessed he had been (29) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in his actions. Sewall said he could now see there really was no such thing as witches. Unfortunately, 20 people had been put to death before he and the other judges realized their (30) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.



**Thought Questions: Answer each of the following questions in COMPLETE SENTENCES.**

1. Why did some people believe in witches during the colonial era?
2. How did the Salem witchcraft scare begin?
3. Why did some women admit to being a witch?
4. Describe two ways in which people tried to determine if someone was a witch.
5. Who deserves the most blame for the deaths of the 20 people in Salem – the witnesses at the trials, the judges, or the defendants themselves? Explain why.