



Salem Witch Trials Daily is presented by [The Thing About Salem](#) and [The Thing About Witch Hunts](#)



# Week 1 Youth Edition Workbook - January 1-4, 2026: Setting the Stage for Salem

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Started: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade/Age: \_\_\_\_\_

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## This Week's Videos & Podcast

### Daily Videos (Salem Witch Trials Daily YouTube Playlist)

- **January 1:** Introduction to Salem Witch Trials Daily
- **January 2:** Five Contributing Factors
- **January 3:** The History of Massachusetts
- **January 4:** Salem's Founding

### Weekly Podcast (Extra Credit!)

**The Thing About Salem:** "What harm were Salem's supposed witches actually accused of causing?"

This podcast dives deeper into the wild beliefs people had about witches. It's optional but really interesting!

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## How to Use This Workbook

1. **Watch** each daily video (they're short!)
2. **Check out the transcript** if you want to review something
3. **Complete** the activities below
4. **Read** the weekly blog to see the big picture
5. **Do** the weekly challenges

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# DAILY VIDEO ACTIVITIES

## January 1: Introduction

### Quick Recap:

In mid-January 1692, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ started acting really weird in Minister \_\_\_\_\_'s house. They were \_\_\_\_\_ like dogs and \_\_\_\_\_ like ducks. Doctors had no idea what was wrong with them.

### Why does this matter?

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## January 2: Five Contributing Factors

### Stop and Think:

After learning about King Philip's War, pause and think about this:

*A war happened in the 1670s, which was 20 years before the witch trials. Why would people still be affected by it in 1692? What kind of trauma sticks around that long?*

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### Highlight Hunt:

Go through your notes or transcript and find all FIVE factors that helped cause the witch trials. Put a star (★) next to the one you think was most important.

### List the five factors:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Which one did you star? Why do you think it was the most powerful?**



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## January 3: Massachusetts History

### Stop and Think:

After learning about the charter being taken away in 1684, pause and answer:

*Imagine your school's rules and authority suddenly didn't exist anymore. How would that feel? What kind of chaos and uncertainty would happen?*

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## January 4: Salem's Founding

### Stop and Think:

When Roger Conant gave up leadership to John Endicott, they renamed the place "Salem" which means "peace."

*If someone forces you to make peace by giving you something (like Conant got 200 acres), does that actually create real peace? Or does it just hide the problem?*

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## QUOTE DETECTIVE CHALLENGE

**Your Mission:** Find 3 examples of LOSS in this week's videos. Look for loss of life, loss of land, loss of power, loss of faith, etc.

### Example 1:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What you found:



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### Example 2:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What you found:

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### Example 3:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What you found:

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## VOCAB CHECK

Define these terms in your own words (no copying!):

**Massachusetts Bay Colony:**

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**Salem Village:**

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**King William's War:**

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**Charter:**

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**Naumkeag:**

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## WEEKLY CHALLENGES

### Challenge 1: What Happens Next?

Based on the five factors you learned about, predict what happens when doctors can't explain what's wrong with Betty and Abigail.

Think about: Everyone believes in witchcraft, people are traumatized from wars, money is tight, neighbors are fighting, and religious leaders think people are losing their faith.

**Your prediction:**

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### Challenge 2: Find the Evidence

**Claim:** "The Salem Witch Trials weren't caused by just one thing. It was a perfect storm of multiple crises happening at once."

**Your job:** Find proof from this week's videos. Write down the date and what supports this claim.

**Evidence 1:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Proof:

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**Evidence 2:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Proof:

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### Evidence 3:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Proof:

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### Challenge 3: Time Travel Journal

**Imagine you're living in Salem Village in early January 1692.**

You've heard that the minister's daughter and niece are acting super strange. Barking like dogs, flapping like birds. No doctor can figure out what's wrong. You know about the wars, money problems, and all the religious drama. You either like or hate Minister Parris (your choice).

**Write 5-7 sentences from your perspective:** What are you thinking? What are you worried about? What do you think is wrong with them?

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### Challenge 4: Share What You Learned

Take something interesting you learned this week and share it with someone. Check what you did:

- Told a friend or family member something surprising
- Posted about it on TikTok, Instagram, or another platform
- Talked about it with a group or class
- Made your own content (video, art, writing)
- Connected what happened in 1692 to something happening today

**What did you share? How did they react?**



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## DISCUSSION QUESTION

After reading this week's blog, think about this:

**How is 1692 Massachusetts similar to times of crisis today?**

Think about: What do people do when multiple bad things happen at once? Do we still blame others when we're scared? What happens when almost everyone believes the same thing?

**Your thoughts:**

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## PODCAST ACTIVITIES (Optional but Cool!)

**Listening Notes: "What harm were Salem's supposed witches actually accused of causing?"**

**Questions:**

**1. Where did people think witches got their powers?**

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**2. What was the "devil's book" and why did people think witches signed it?**

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**3. What were witch sabbats? (Hint: weird midnight meetings)**



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#### 4. Name three ways people thought witches could hurt them:

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5. What was "spectral evidence"? Why did they think chains would stop witches' spirits?

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#### 6. What were "familiar spirits"?

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### Podcast Vocab

Define these weird terms:

**Maleficium:** (harmful magic)

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**Spectral evidence:** (ghost/spirit proof)

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**Witch's mark/teat:** (body mark Satan supposedly left)

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**Poppets:** (creepy dolls used to hurt people)

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**Sabbat:** (witch gathering)



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## Think About It

**How does understanding what people THOUGHT witches did help explain why they believed the accusations?**

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**What's one thing from the podcast that surprised you?**

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**Why did it surprise you?**

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## YOUR PROGRESS

<div style="margin: 20px 0;"> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; border-radius: 10px; height: 30px; width: 100%; position: relative; overflow: hidden;"> <div style="background: linear-gradient(90deg, #8b4513 0%, #d2691e 100%); height: 100%; width: 0.8%; transition: width 0.3s ease;"></div> </div> <p style="margin-top: 8px; font-size: 14px; color: #666;">Week 1 of ~125 weeks | Less than 1% Complete | January 2026 - May 2027</p> </div>

**Where we are:** January 1-4, 1692. Setup phase. The witch trials haven't started yet, but all the pieces are in place.

**Coming next week:** More about Salem Village drama, Minister Parris's problems, and getting closer to when things really blow up.

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## BADGE COLLECTION

Check off the badges you've earned:



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- #SalemDailyStudent** - You started!
- #SalemWeek1** - You finished Week 1!
- #SalemDescendantPathStudent** - If your ancestors were involved (use with other badges)

**Did you post your badges? Where?**

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**You crushed Week 1! You're not just watching videos - you're doing real research. See you next week!**

**Post your progress: #SalemDailyStudent #SalemWeek1 #ThingAboutSalem  
#SalemDailyYoutube #SalemDescendantPath**

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## Resources & Links

### This Week's Stuff

#### Video Playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIz3vKHO9eBqlfjWd4e0mZpuXlxzaE-3>

#### Podcast:

The Thing About Salem at <https://aboutsalem.com>

### Useful Websites

**The Thing About Salem:** <https://aboutsalem.com>

**The Thing About Witch Hunts:** <https://aboutwitchhunts.com>

**Primary Sources:** <http://www.17thc.us/primarysources/accused.php>

### Books if You Want to Go Deeper

- Bernard Rosenthal, *Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt*
- Emerson W. Baker, *A Storm of Witchcraft*
- Marilynne K. Roach, *The Salem Witch Trials: A Day-by-Day Chronicle*
- Mary Beth Norton, *In the Devil's Snare*

### Support the Project



*Salem Witch Trials Daily* is presented by [The Thing About Salem](#) and [The Thing About Witch Hunts](#)

This course is made by End Witch Hunts, a nonprofit.

**Donate:** <https://endwitchhunts.org/donate/>

**Help get justice for accused witches:**

Sign the petition: [www.change.org/witchtrials](http://www.change.org/witchtrials)

Learn more: [https://massachusettswitchtrials.org/](http://massachusettswitchtrials.org/)