



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



# Week 2 Student Workbook

**January 5-11, 2026: Salem Village Divided**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Started: \_\_\_\_\_

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## This Week's Materials

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

- **January 5:** Salem Town, Salem Farms, and Salem Village
- **January 6:** Samuel Parris
- **January 7:** Religion in Massachusetts
- **January 8:** Myths
- **January 9:** Witches and the Diabolical Pact
- **January 10:** Warfare
- **January 11:** Massachusetts Economy

### Recent Podcast (Supplemental)

**The Thing About Tituba** (Premiere episode exploring Tituba's story, the witch cake, and debunking myths)

This podcast episode provides deeper context and is recommended but optional for completing the course.

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## How to Use This Workbook

1. **Watch** each daily video (January 5-11)
2. **Use the transcript** as a study resource (optional but helpful)
3. **Complete** the activities below as you go
4. **Read** the Weekly Blog for deeper synthesis
5. **Engage** with the weekly challenges

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## DAILY TRANSCRIPT ACTIVITIES

### January 5 - Three Salems

#### Fill-in-the-Blank Summary:

Salem wasn't one unified community. There was Salem \_\_\_\_\_, the prosperous port city. Salem \_\_\_\_\_ was the agricultural land to the west. Salem \_\_\_\_\_ was the small farming settlement that wanted independence. In 1666, Salem Farms residents petitioned for their own \_\_\_\_\_ but Salem Town refused. The General Court finally allowed Salem Village to have a minister in \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Why this matters:

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### January 6 - Samuel Parris Controversy

#### Pause and Reflect:

After learning about the October 10, 1689 vote giving Parris the parsonage, pause and answer:

*The vote was possibly illegal because only one objection was recorded, while we know more people opposed the measure, suggesting not all villagers were informed. Why would giving the minister ownership of the parsonage and land create lasting controversy?*

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#### Critical Fact:

From March 30, 1690 to July 23, 1693 (over 3 years), how many men joined Samuel Parris's church? \_\_\_\_\_

What message were the men of Salem Village sending?

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### January 7 - Religion in Massachusetts



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### Pause and Reflect:

After the discussion of forced toleration under the 1691 charter, pause and answer:

*Puritans had to tolerate Anglicans, Baptists, and Quakers (whom they had previously persecuted and even executed). How would this forced toleration feel like a threat to their identity and their "city on a hill"?*

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### Key Distinction:

What was the difference between demon possession and bewitchment? Why did that difference matter?

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## January 8 - Myths

### Annotation Activity:

In your notes or transcript, mark each myth with an X and write the truth next to it.

### List 5 myths debunked this week:

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

### Which myth surprised you most to learn was false?

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## January 9 - Witches and the Diabolical Pact

### Pause and Reflect:



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After learning what colonists believed witches could do, pause and answer:

*If everyone believed witches could send their specters to harm people from a distance, how would that make it nearly impossible to prove your innocence?*

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## January 10 - Warfare

### Fill-in-the-Blank Summary:

King Philip's War (1675-1678) was the deadliest war per capita in U.S. history. About \_\_\_\_\_ colonists died and \_\_\_\_\_ Native Americans were killed. The Massachusetts economy didn't fully recover until the \_\_\_\_\_ century. King William's War destroyed most of northern New England's \_\_\_\_\_ settlements, driving refugees south to \_\_\_\_\_ County.

### Why this matters:

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## January 11 - Massachusetts Economy

### Pause and Reflect:

After learning about the Little Ice Age, war debt, and inflation, pause and answer:

*How does economic collapse sever the bond of trust between people and their government?  
What happens to a community when that trust breaks?*

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### The Poverty Trap:

Describe what happened to Dorothy Good:

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## QUOTE SCAVENGER HUNT (All Seven Days)

**Your Task:** Find 3 examples of DIVISION in this week's transcripts. Look for divisions between town and village, pro-Parris and anti-Parris factions, economic classes, etc.

### Example 1:

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

Quote or description:

### Example 2:

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

Quote or description:

### Example 3:

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

Quote or description:

## VOCABULARY CHECK

Define these key terms in your own words after encountering them this week:

**Salem Town:**

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**Salem Village:**



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### Parish vs. Church:

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### Parsonage:

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### Halfway Covenant:

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### Congregationalism:

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### Spectral evidence:

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### Diabolical pact:

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### Little Ice Age:

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### Warning out:

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## WEEKLY CHALLENGES



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## Challenge 1: Predict What Happens Next

Based on what you learned about Salem Village's divisions, Samuel Parris's unpopularity, the economic crisis, and war trauma, predict what happens when accusations start.

Consider: Who gets accused? Who believes the accusations? How do existing divisions get weaponized?

**Your prediction:**

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## Challenge 2: Citation Exercise

**Claim:** "Salem Village was deeply divided before any witch accusations began."

**Your Task:** Find supporting evidence in this week's transcripts. Cite the specific day (January 5-11) and quote or paraphrase the evidence.

**Evidence 1:**

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

Evidence:

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**Evidence 2:**

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

Evidence:

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**Evidence 3:**

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

Evidence:

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## Challenge 3: Character Journal

## You are a Salem Village resident in early 1692.

You either support or oppose Samuel Parris (choose one). The village is fractured. Families aren't paying his salary. The committee won't collect taxes for him. You know about the wars, the economic collapse, the religious tensions. You attend (or refuse to attend) his church.

**Write 5-7 sentences from your perspective:** What do you think of Parris? What do you think about the state of the village? Are you worried? Angry? Hopeful?

## Challenge 4: Share Your Learning

Many people believe myths about the Salem Witch Trials (ergot, hysteria, The Crucible's version). Take what you learned this week and share it.

Check the method(s) you used:

- Explained a myth vs. reality to a friend or family member
- Posted about misconceptions on social media
- Discussed in a book club or community group
- Created content correcting myths
- Connected Salem's divisions to modern community fractures

## What did you share? How did people respond?

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## DISCUSSION REFLECTION



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After reading this week's blog, respond to the discussion question:

**How do the divisions in Salem Village (pro-Parris vs. anti-Parris, town vs. village, wealthy vs. poor) compare to divisions in communities today? What happens when a community is this fractured and then faces a crisis?**

Think about: How do existing tensions get weaponized when people are scared? Do we still turn on neighbors when institutions fail us?

**Your thoughts:**

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## PODCAST EPISODE ACTIVITIES (Supplemental)

**Listening Notes: "The Thing About Tituba"**

**Key Events Questions:**

**1. What happened on February 24, 1692?**

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**2. What was the "witch cake" and who instructed that it be made?**

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**3. When did the girls accuse Tituba?**

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**4. Who were the four men who filed the complaint on February 29?**

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_



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c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. What happened during Tituba's examination on March 1?

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### 6. What did Tituba describe seeing (animals, spirits, etc.)?

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## Podcast Vocabulary

Define these terms from the episode:

**"Under an evil hand":**

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**Witch cake:**

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**Preternatural:**

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**Examination:**

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## Myth vs. Reality

**The popular myth about Tituba:**



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### The reality from historical records:

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**Why does this myth matter? What does it reveal about how we tell the Salem story?**

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### Connection & Reflection

**How does Tituba's story show the intersection of race, class, and gender in who gets accused and how they're treated?**

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### Quote from Podcast

Find one detail from the podcast that changed your understanding of Tituba's role:

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### Why did this detail matter to you?

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## PROGRESS TRACKER

<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: 2.7%; transition: width 0.3s ease;"></div> </div> <p style="margin-top: 8px; font-size: 14px; color: #666;">Week 2 of ~75 weeks | ~3% Complete | January 2026 - May 2027</p> </div>



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**Timeline Milestone:** Setup phase - January 5-11, 1692. Salem Village is deeply divided, the economy is collapsing, wars rage, and the minister is hated.

**Coming Next Week:** Mid-January 1692 when the afflictions intensify and the first accusations are made.

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## BADGE TRACKER

Mark the badges you've earned this week:

- #SalemWeek2** - Completed Week 2  **#SalemDailyStudent**
- #SalemDescendantPathStudent** - If you have ancestral connection (use alongside other badges)

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

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**Great work this week! You're doing the work of a researcher. See you next week!**

**Remember to use:** #SalemWeek2 #ThingAboutSalem #SalemDailyYoutube

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## Week 2 Resources & Further Learning

### This Week's Videos & Podcast

#### Salem Witch Trials Daily Playlist:

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

#### This Week's Podcast Episode:

The Thing About Tituba (premiere episode)

Available on all podcast platforms or at <https://aboutsalem.com>

### Helpful Websites

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

Weekly podcast dedicated to the Salem Witch Trials



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

Weekly podcast covering historical witch trials and modern witch hunts

**People Accused of Witchcraft in 1692:** <http://www.17thc.us/primarysources/accused.php>

Primary source database

## Recommended Books for Deeper Study

Francis J. Bremer, *Puritanism: A Very Short Introduction*

<https://bookshop.org/a/90227/9780195334555>

Emerson W. Baker, *A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience*

<https://bookshop.org/a/90227/9780190627805>

Bernard Rosenthal, ed., *Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt*

<https://bookshop.org/a/90227/9781107689619>

Marilynne K. Roach, *The Salem Witch Trials: A Day-by-Day Chronicle of a Community Under Siege*

<https://bookshop.org/a/90227/9781589791329>

Marilynne K. Roach, *Six Women of Salem: The Untold Story of the Accused and Their Accusers*

<https://bookshop.org/a/90227/9780306823602>

Mary Beth Norton, *In the Devil's Snare: The Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692*

<https://bookshop.org/a/90227/9780375706905>

Increase Mather, *Cases of Conscience*

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A70086.0001.001/1:9.1?rgn=div2&view=fulltext>

## Course Materials

**Salem Witch Trials Daily Hub:** <https://aboutsalem.com/salem-witch-trials-daily/>

**Week 1 Course Work:**

<https://aboutsalem.com/salem-witch-trials-daily-course-week-1-setting-the-stage-for-salem/>

## Support This Work

This course is created by the nonprofit End Witch Hunts. Support our research and educational projects:

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



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### **MA Witch Hunt Justice Project:**

Sign the petition for justice and exoneration: [www.change.org/witchtrials](http://www.change.org/witchtrials)

Learn more: <https://massachusettswitchtrials.org/>