

Week 7 Student Workbook

February 9-15, 2026: Families, Geography, and the Machinery of Accusation

Your Name: _____ Date Started: _____

This Week's Materials

Daily Videos (Salem Witch Trials Daily YouTube Playlist)

- **February 9:** Andover's Ministers
- **February 10:** Afflicted Servants
- **February 11:** Grounds to Examine a Suspected Witch
- **February 12:** Salem Witch Trials Geography
- **February 13:** Refusing to Confess
- **February 14:** Samuel Parris Sermons
- **February 15:** Martha Carrier's Family

Weekly Podcast (Dive Deeper)

The Thing About Salem: *Magic in the Courtroom: The Story of Candy, A Woman Accused of Witchcraft in 1692*

This podcast tells the story of an enslaved woman from Barbados who confessed to witchcraft on her own terms and introduced household items as instruments of magic into the courtroom. It raises questions about race, agency, slavery, and resistance within the framework of the witch-hunt.

How to Use This Workbook

1. **Watch** each daily video (February 9-15)
 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

February 9: Andover's Ministers

Fill-in-the-Blank Summary:

Andover saw about _____ individuals accused of witchcraft, making it the hardest-hit community during the Salem Witch Trials. The town had two ministers: the senior minister, _____, who was Martha Carrier's uncle, and the junior minister, _____. The town was paying _____ ministerial salaries, which created financial strain. Historian _____ researched the Andover witch-hunt and found that of the 45 accused, _____ came from the north end and _____ came from the south end. Among accusers, _____ came from the north end and _____ from the south end. This data dismantles the theory of a _____ divide driving the accusations.

Pause and Reflect:

Thomas Barnard has historically been blamed for the touch test performed in the Andover meetinghouse. Richard Hite argues this is a misunderstanding of the minister's role. What was Barnard's actual function at the meetinghouse that day, and who would have made the decision to hold such a test?

Key Finding:

How many members of Francis Dane's extended family were accused of witchcraft? _____

Why does Martha Carrier's relationship to Francis Dane help explain this pattern?

February 10: Afflicted Servants

Annotation Activity:

As you watch, sort the afflicted persons into two categories:

Servants/Orphans:

Name	Employer/Guardian	Key Detail
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Living with Own Families:

Name	Family Connection	Key Detail
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Pause and Reflect:

The video emphasizes that more than 70 people claimed to be bewitched during the Salem Witch Trials. They were "all ages, male and female, all marital circumstances." Why does the popular image of "afflicted girls" persist, and what does it obscure?

Marriage Outcomes:

Fill in what happened to each of these afflicted persons after the trials:

- Elizabeth Hubbard: _____
- Mary Warren: _____
- Mercy Lewis: _____
- Sarah Churchill: _____
- Betty Parris: _____
- Ann Putnam Jr.: _____
- Susannah Sheldon: _____

What pattern do you notice? What does the variation tell us?

February 11: Grounds to Examine a Suspected Witch

Fill-in-the-Blank Summary:

William Perkins was an English _____ theologian who wrote *A Discourse of the Damned Art of Witchcraft*, published in _____. Boston ministers cited his criteria in their June _____ advice to the Salem Court. Connecticut magistrates invoked his standards in _____ to justify repressing _____.

Perkins' Seven Grounds for Examination:

List all seven grounds (use transcript to confirm):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Insufficient vs. Sufficient Proofs:

Perkins distinguished between what could establish suspicion and what could justify a conviction. Complete the chart:

Insufficient Proofs (not enough for conviction):

Proof	How It Worked
Hot iron/boiling water	
Scratching test	
Burning bewitched objects	
Swimming test	

Sufficient Proofs (required for conviction):

1. _____
2. _____

3. _____

Critical Thinking:

Perkins himself noted that some of the insufficient proofs were "after a sort practices of witchcraft." What does it mean that the authorities testing for witchcraft were themselves employing folk magic? How does this connect to what happened in the courtrooms at Salem?

February 12: Salem Witch Trials Geography

Fill-in-the-Blank Summary:

Salem _____ was the bustling cosmopolitan port, while Salem _____ was the agrarian farming community about _____ miles inland. The examinations began in Salem _____, and when the Court of Oyer and Terminer was established in June, the proceedings moved to Salem _____. Accusations spread to _____ different communities, stretching from _____ in the south to _____ in the north.

Mapping the Afflicted:

The video challenges the idea that the afflicted girls were neighbors. Place each person in the correct location:

- Betty Parris and Abigail Williams: _____
- Ann Putnam Jr.: _____
- Elizabeth Hubbard: _____

What does this geographic spread suggest about the accusation phenomenon?

Geography and the Spread of Accusations:

How did the accusations physically spread to Andover? Who invited whom, and why?

Pause and Reflect:

The Gallows Hill Project used viewshed analysis to confirm the execution site was not at the summit of Gallows Hill but at _____. Why does identifying the precise physical location matter for historical understanding?

February 13: Refusing to Confess

Quote Identification:

Match each quote to the person who said it:

Quote	Speaker
"I am as innocent as the child unborn."	
"You tax me for a wizard? You might as well tax me for a buzzard."	
"I dare not tell a lie if it would save my life."	
"If it was the last time I was to speak, I am innocent."	

By the Numbers:

- Of the 19 people hanged, how many refused to confess? _____
- How many people in 1692 did confess? _____
- Who was the only confessor to be executed? _____

The Case of Samuel Wardwell:

Summarize Wardwell's progression from confession to recantation to execution:

1. Initial confession: _____
2. Recantation (September 13):

3. Execution (September 22): _____
4. What happened at the execution:

Pause and Reflect:

Mary Esty's petition is one of the most significant documents from the trials. She accepted her own death but asked the court to change its procedures. What specific suggestions did she make, and what did she believe about the confessors?

Critical Thinking:

Why did Giles Cory refuse to stand trial? What did he know about the court's track record, and what was he trying to prevent by refusing to enter a plea?

February 14: Samuel Parris Sermons

Sermon Timeline:

Track the progression of Parris's sermons by completing this chart:

Date	Key Theme or Quote	Context
November 22, 1691		
January 3, 1692 (morning)		
January 3, 1692 (afternoon)		
February 14, 1692		
March 27, 1692		
September 11, 1692		
October 23, 1692		

The Firewood Detail:

On January 3, 1692, Parris stopped his sermon because "by reason of the cold, so much shall suffice." Why is this detail significant? What was the connection between his material circumstances and his spiritual narrative?

Pause and Reflect:

On March 27, Parris listed the sins that make someone "a devil." His list included: slanderers, accusers of the godly, opposers of godliness, and "envious persons as witches." How does this list relate to his personal disputes with members of the congregation?

The Empty Seats:

By August 1692, the families of Peter Cloyce, Samuel Nurse, and John Tarbell had stopped attending church. Why? What was the church's response?

Critical Thinking:

When Parris preached about "kisses" and reconciliation on October 23, was he offering an olive branch or demonstrating a fundamental disconnect? Support your interpretation with evidence from the transcript.

February 15: Martha Carrier's Family

Family Web:

Using the transcript, trace the connections. Complete the family chart:

Martha Carrier (born Martha Allen)

- Parents: _____ and _____ Allen
- Married: _____ in 1674
- Children accused: _____, _____, _____, and _____
- Sister: _____ (married Roger Toothaker)
- Uncle by marriage: Rev. _____

The Ingalls Connection:

- Martha's mother Faith was an _____
- Faith's parents: _____ and _____ Ingalls
- Number of their descendants accused: at least _____
- Famous later descendant of Edmund and Ann Ingalls: _____

Dane Family Accused:

List at least five members of the Dane/Johnson family who were accused:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Pause and Reflect:

Martha Carrier's sons Andrew and Richard were physically coerced into confessing and testifying against their mother. John Proctor described them being "bound neck and heels until the blood was ready to gush from their noses." How does this physical coercion complicate the historical record of confessions?

QUOTE SCAVENGER HUNT

Find these quotes in this week's transcripts. Write the date and speaker for each:

1. "Candy no witch in her country. Candy's mother no witch. Candy no witch, Barbados. This country, mistress give Candy witch."
 - **Source:** _____ **Speaker:** _____
2. "The Lord above knows my innocency then and likewise does now, as of the great day will be known to men and angels."
 - **Source:** _____ **Speaker:** _____
3. "It is a woeful piece of our corruption in an evil time, when the wicked prosper and the godly party meet with vexations."
 - **Source:** _____ **Speaker:** _____

4. "Have not I chosen you 12, and one of you is a devil?"
- **Source:** _____ **Speaker:** _____ (quoted by _____)
5. "She justified herself and condemned her accusers."
- **Source:** _____ **About whom:** _____
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VOCABULARY

Define the following terms using this week's transcripts and blog:

Touch test: _____

Peine Forte et Dure: _____

Viewshed analysis: _____

Oomancy: _____

Excommunication: _____

Familiar spirit: _____

Court of Oyer and Terminer: _____

Spectral evidence: _____

PODCAST ACTIVITIES (Supplemental)

Listening Notes: "Candy of Barbados: Witchcraft, Cheese, and Resistance"

Comprehension Questions:

1. Who was Candy's enslaver, and where did they both come from originally?
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2. What distinction did the court records make between the ethnic classifications of Candy and Tituba?

3. What objects did Candy bring back to the courtroom as her "instruments" of witchcraft?

4. What did the magistrates do with the rags, and what happened to the afflicted?

5. What were the magistrates reported to have compelled Candy to eat?

6. What was the verdict when Candy was tried on January 6, 1693?

7. What condition accompanied her acquittal?

Deeper Analysis:

Candy's confession placed responsibility for her alleged witchcraft on her enslaver and on Massachusetts itself. Consider the power dynamics: an enslaved woman with no legal rights, facing men who could condemn her to death, using the framework of the witch-hunt to speak against the woman who owned her.

What does Candy's testimony reveal about agency within systems of oppression? What were the limits of that agency?

Connection to Daily Content:

How does Candy's examination, with its burning of rags and testing of objects, connect to what William Perkins wrote about insufficient proofs of witchcraft? Would Perkins have considered the courtroom experiments on Candy's objects to be legitimate evidence?

FOUR WEEKLY CHALLENGES

1. Predict What Happens Next

The systems are now visible: family networks as targets, geographic spread across 25 communities, sermons escalating from the pulpit, evidence standards that blur suspicion and conviction. Based on patterns observed this week, what happens when the authorities try to wind down the trials? What complications arise from 54 confessors and devastated family networks?

2. Citation Practice

Claim: "The accusations in Andover were evenly distributed across the community, not driven by factional loyalty to either minister."

Find and cite the specific numerical evidence from the February 9 transcript that supports this claim. Include exact numbers for both accused and accusers by geographic section.

3. Character Journal

Write 5-7 sentences from the perspective of one of Martha Carrier's sons (Andrew or Richard) after being physically coerced into confessing and testifying against their mother. What are they thinking? What are they feeling? What do they believe will happen next?

4. Share Your Learning

This week covered topics that connect to broader questions: How do family networks become targets? How does geography shape a crisis? How do people make choices under impossible pressure? Share one insight that surprised or challenged a previous assumption.

Where did you share it? _____

DISCUSSION REFLECTION

This week revealed the machinery of the Salem Witch Trials: the theological standards, the geographic reach, the family networks, the sermons, the choices facing the accused.

Choose one of the following prompts:

A. Perkins' framework distinguished between grounds for examination and proofs sufficient for conviction. In practice, that distinction collapsed at Salem. Where else in history or in the present have similar distinctions between suspicion and proof broken down?

B. Samuel Parris's sermons show a progression from vague grievance to targeted accusation. How does language from positions of authority shape a community's understanding of who is dangerous?

C. Candy's testimony placed responsibility for her witchcraft on Massachusetts itself. What does it mean that an enslaved woman used the framework of the witch-hunt to indict the colony?

BADGE TRACKER

Mark the badges you've earned this week:

#SalemDailyStudent (started the course)

#SalemWeek7 (completed Week 7)

#SalemDescendantPathStudent (if you have ancestral connections, use alongside other badges)

Did you post using your badges? Where?

Great work this week. See you next week!

Remember to use: #SalemDailyStudent #SalemWeek7 #ThingAboutSalem
#SalemDailyYoutube #SalemDescendantPath

Resources & Links

This Week's Stuff

Video Playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIz3vKHO9eBqIfjWd4e0mZpuXlrzaE-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*
Stacy Schiff, *The Witches: Salem, 1692* Richard Hite, *In the Shadow of Salem: The Andover Witch-Hunt of 1692*
William Perkins, *A Discourse of the Damned Art of Witchcraft* (1608) John Hale, *A Modest Enquiry into the Nature of Witchcraft* (1702)

Support the Project

This course is made by End Witch Hunts, a nonprofit. Donate: <https://endwitchhunts.org/donate/>
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