**Salem Witch Trials (History Channel) Viewing Guide** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdX1vK03hRw>

1. What were people being accused of / persecuted for in the town of Salem?
2. Where else had similar phenomenon happened?
3. What caused the shift in Christians’ attitudes toward paganism? 1:50
4. What did the villagers use the witch hunts to do? 2:15
5. What was a sign that someone was a witch? 4:25
6. What were some other tests conducted to uncover witchery? What was the obvious flaw with these tests?
7. Who was Margaret Jones and of what was she accused? 9:20
8. Why was Salem especially vulnerable to a witch hunt? 10:15
9. Explain the belief in predestination. Who were the ELECT?
10. What was the Puritan ideal for women? Why did some believe they more likely to join the devil’s cause? 12:40
11. What were some of the social tensions in Salem? 14:20
12. What did the first accused of witchcraft have in common? Why were they “easy targets”? 20:10
13. What was “spectral evidence”? What is the obvious shortcoming of allowing this type of evidence? 21:45
14. What was unique about the accusation of Rebecca Nurse? 27:40
15. What was unique about the testimony of the girls? Discuss the power dynamic.
16. At what point did the girls “go too far”? 36:30
17. What were some things that jury and girls did afterward as repentance?
18. Some believed the girls made up the accusations for sport and to enjoy their new-found power. What are other theories about why the girls accused certain people?

**Quick Write:** The narrator states at the end of the video, that the this would not be the last time America was caught up in a witch hunt wherein one group was vilified and persecuted to allay the fears of another group. He also says that, moving forward, Americans would always assume one was innocent until proven guilty. Make connections to contemporary culture. Consider what we fear in contemporary culture? Does our social atmosphere make us vulnerable to “witch hunts” or do we have balances in place to prevent them? Consider the impact of media on fear and justice.