

*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

To complete this worksheet, visit West Springfield High School's *The Crucible* web site  
<<http://www.fcps.edu/westspringfieldhs/academic/english/1project/crucible/crucible.htm>>

- I. McCarthyism and the Red Scare of the 1950s
  - A. What did Senator Joseph McCarthy have to do with the Red Scare of the 1950s?
  
  - B. What ultimately happened to his investigation?
  
  - C. What is the HUAC and what did it set out to do in the 1940s and 1950s?
  
- II. Blacklists
  - A. Who was most likely to be named to these lists?
  
  - B. What happened to those accused by Joseph McCarthy and the HUAC?
  
- III. Hysteria
  - A. What are some possible causes for the hysteria in Salem?
  
  - B. What prompted the hysteria during the Red Scare?
  
- IV. Compare/contrast the play to actual historical events.
  - A. List three ways that Miller's play differs from the actual Salem court trials.
    - 1.
    - 2.
    - 3.
  
  - B. List three similarities of the Salem Witch Trials to the Red Scare of the 1950s.
    - 1.
    - 2.
    - 3.

V. Images

A. Based upon the information provided in these web sites, list three traits of the Puritans living in Salem? (Be specific - link your answers to actual behaviors of these people. What were their goals? What did they value? How did they spend their time?)

1.

2.

3.

B. Based upon the architecture and land ownership of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, what can you say about the living conditions of these people and how might such conditions be a factor in the Salem Witch Trials?

VI. Religion

A. What part does religion play in determining the outcome of *The Crucible*?

B. Do the various Salem memorials capture the essence of the Salem witch trials? Why or why not? (Look at them from the perspective of the accusers; look at them from the perspective of the accused.)

VII. Torture

A. Write an observation about the types of torture used for those accused of witchcraft.

VIII. Arthur Miller

A. Identify three reasons for his writing the play.

1.

2.

3.

IX. Write a summary paragraph evaluating the quality and the merit of the various web sites that you have viewed pertaining to this unit. Which ones were most helpful? Why?