The Crucible and other Witch Hunts

WebQuest Description: The Crucible is a play about deception, fear, and lust, and how these things can enrapture an entire society. Based on a true and awful story, Arthur Miller takes us through witch hunts that parallel his own situation as well as ours.

Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: crucible
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Introduction

In order to complete this WebQuest, you will need to research the following areas and answer the questions in each section:

- McCarthyism
- 1692 Salem and Puritanism
- The Crucible

After compiling information on all of these events, you will compare them to the text of The Crucible and find out what similar situations/prevailing thoughts may have caused all of them.

Tasks

In order to compare all of these witch hunts, you will first need to gather some information. In groups of five, you are to follow all of the links to complete the research and then answer the questions for each section. Your answers must all be typed. When you have completed your task, bring your findings back to the group and compare. Then you can complete the final group questions which compare all of the situations.

Process

In order to complete this WebQuest, you will need to research the following areas and answer the questions in each section:

- McCarthyism
- 1692 Salem and Puritanism
- The Crucible

After compiling information on all of these events, you will compare them to the text of The Crucible and find out what similar situations/prevailing thoughts may have caused all of them.
situations of the accused in each of these cases? How are their lives affected? How would you describe the accusers in each of the cases? Do you think they are prejudiced? Scared? Power-hungry? Explain. What is similar about how each of the situations could have potentially been avoided? Has the world learned from its “witch hunts”? What other ones do you know of? Why do you think history repeats itself?

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<td>Category and Score</td>
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<tr>
<td>1692 Salem &amp; Puritanism</td>
<td>All questions answered thoroughly proving that you read through and understood all the research material.</td>
<td>All questions answered, but some are incomplete or it is obvious you didn't read all the material.</td>
<td>Some questions unanswered and obviously incomplete research.</td>
<td>Incomplete or unanswered questions and/or research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCarthyism</td>
<td>All questions answered thoroughly proving that you read through and understood all the research material.</td>
<td>All questions answered, but some are incomplete or it is obvious you didn't read all the material.</td>
<td>Some questions unanswered and obviously incomplete research.</td>
<td>Incomplete or unanswered questions and/or research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Crucible Questions</td>
<td>All questions answered thoroughly proving that you read through and understood all the research material.</td>
<td>All questions answered, but some are incomplete or it is obvious you didn't read all the material.</td>
<td>Some questions unanswered and obviously incomplete research.</td>
<td>Incomplete or unanswered questions and/or research.</td>
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<td>Conclusion &amp; Comparisons</td>
<td>All questions answered thoroughly and comparisons are insightful. They point out the underlying similarities.</td>
<td>All questions answered, but some are incomplete or weak. Comparisons are surface level.</td>
<td>Some questions unanswered and/or weak comparisons. Not very analytical.</td>
<td>Incomplete or unanswered questions and/or comparisons.</td>
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In completing all of the above tasks, you should gain a better understanding of why Arthur Miller wrote The Crucible. Literature is more than the just the plot!

Teacher Page

This WebQuest was designed for 11th graders taking American Literature to learn more about The Crucible. In order to understand the work, students need to know about the author's life. Also, students often take a work of fiction to be fact, especially when it is based on true events. Therefore, in addition to learning what causes mass hysteria and hopefully how to avoid it, students learn about The Crucible on a deeper, more meaningful level.

Standards

Credits

Other