**NAME:**

**A. The Salem Witch Trials:**

* Read this article to learn more about the Salem witch trials: <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/salem.htm>
* Experience this virtual witch trial to get a feel for what it was like to be accused: <http://education.nationalgeographic.com/media/salem-witch-trials-interactive/>
* Read this timeline of events for the Salem with trials: <http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/salem/ASAL_CH.HTM>
* View this actual arrest warren from the Salem with trials: <http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/salem/ASAL_WA.HTM>
* Read this article about possible “witch hunts that to go on today: [http://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2010/11/modern-day-witch-hunts/#](http://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2010/11/modern-day-witch-hunts/)
1. What were some beliefs about witchcraft and witches that people held in the past?
2. What were the Salem witchcraft trials?
3. What options did an accused witch have in Salem?
4. How long did the Salem witch trials last?
5. What sort of evidence was used to arrest accused witches?
6. Explain modern day “witch hunts”.

**B. Characters in *The Crucible*:**

* Use this link to learn more about the characters in *The* *Crucible* (If you want to read the summary of the play, go ahead. However, it’s not required for those who like some element of surprise): <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/crucible/characters.html>
1. Describe the following characters:

 a. John Proctor:

 b. Elizabeth Proctor:

 c. Abigail Williams:

 d. Mary Warren:

 e. Rev. Parris:

 f. Rev. Hale:

 g. Tituba:

**C. Arthur Miller:**

* Read this source to learn more about Arthur Miller: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur\_Miller
* Browse this timeline of Arthur Miller’s life: <http://www.ibiblio.org/miller/life.html>
* Read this interview with Arthur Miller about his writing: http://www.neh.gov/about/awards/jefferson-lecture/arthur-miller-interview
1. What major historical event shaped Arthur Miller's childhood?
2. What happened when Miller was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee?
3. To whom was Miller married?
4. What sort of awards did Miller receive?
5. Describe the common themes of Miller's writings (pay particular attention to any references to The Crucible).
6. How would you categorize Arthur Miller's political views?
7. How do you think Miller viewed the function of drama?

**D. McCarthyism:**

* Use this source to gather more information about Joseph McCarthy: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_McCarthy>
* Use this source to gather more information about McCarthyism: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCarthyism>
* Use this source to learn how McCarthyism worked: <http://history.howstuffworks.com/historical-figures/mccarthyism.htm>
1. Short definition of Communism. Describe America’s attitude toward communists and communism during the late 40’s and early 50’s.
2. Who was the President of the United States during this time?
3. What is containment? The domino theory?
4. Who is Joseph McCarthy? Provide a short biography.
5. What speech did he make, and how did it kick off the Red Scare?
6. What is HUAC? Describe its mission under McCarthy.
7. Who were the Hollywood Ten, and what happened to them?
8. When such people as Larry Parker and Roy Huggins “named names,” what happened to the people they named? If you were “named” and refused to talk, what happened?
9. List some people who couldn’t work and tell why.
10. Who were McCarthy’s “helpers” on HUAC? What was their role?
11. Ultimately, what was McCarthy’s fate? Explain fully. When and how did he go too far?
12. What was the HUAC renamed in 1969? What is its status today?
13. Prediction: What bearing does all of this have on the play we are about to read?