Witchcraft was an immediate and serious concern in Europe during the 16th and 17th centuries
First "encounter" and starter was in Reverend Samuel Pariss' kitchen, in Salem
Parris' west Indian servant, Tituba did "readings" and admitted to being a witch
Salem Christians were willing to spare lives of confessed witches
Sir William Phips halted court proceedings against the accused in May 1963, leftovers were released, his wife included
Laurie Winn Carlson believes physical and neurological symptoms in the town should be weighed more heavily
Behaviour was very similar to pandemic or encephalitis lethargica that broke out in 20th century, and could be reason for unanswered questions in America
Limited medicine and experience, physicians could only conclude witchcraft
Puritans came to establish utopian vision of community based upon religious ideals, worked, until 1690s
Since nobody could stop illness of citizens for ten months, city decided it was witchcraft
One year hundreds in prison, and many hung, next year all freed, witchcraft was nonsense
People blamed own misfortunes on others they did not like, because they could get away with it
Many accusers could not even identify their accused

Encephalitis Lethargica
Similar illness of encephalitis lethargica swept Europe, and America, claiming over 5million lives
Towns had to abandon football games, Disney World closed down all because of disease
Unexplained physical and neurological symptoms due to this disease

Women vs. Men
Some historians saw this as a power struggle
Women were thought to be faking ill so they would not have to do chores or work
Women were accused of lashing back at men by temporarily stopping their lives to "prove a point"
Mass Psychogenic Illness, MPI
- Contagious spread of behaviour within a group of individuals
- One person serves as the leader, and others follow
- Can be done unconsciously, or out of need of attention
- Can be seen as a response to overwhelming life and work stress
- Includes: fainting, malaise, convulsions with hyperventilation, and excitement
- Transmission is by sight or sound to other members of the groups through unconscious fantasies

Puberty
- Change of hormones and physical appearance may trigger weird behaviour
- Can cause fits, convulsions, and erratic behaviour
- Other disorders follow along, such as anorexia nervosa for teenaged girls

Rye and Bread Poisoning
- Fungus outbreak on crops may have caused erratic behaviour
- Hallucinogenic poisoning may have been caused by tainted crops
- LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) was found to be very concentrated in 1692
- Could explain outbreak in different colonies
- As grain is passed to family, and friends different reactions may have taken place, and therefore randomly spreading illness
**Similarities Between the "Salem Witchcraft Trials Phenomenon," and Encephalitis Lethargica**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1962 Salem</th>
<th>1916-1930s Encephalitis Epidemic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fits</td>
<td>• Convulsions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Spectral visions</td>
<td>• Hallucinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mental &quot;distraction&quot;</td>
<td>• Psychoses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pinching, prickling</td>
<td>• Myoclonus of small muscles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• &quot;bites&quot;</td>
<td>• Erythmata on skin surface, capillary haemorrhaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• eyes twisted</td>
<td>• Oculogyric crisis: gaze fixed, upward, downward, or to the side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• inability to walk</td>
<td>• Paresis: partial paralysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• neck twisted</td>
<td>• Torticollis: spasm of neck muscles forces head to one side, spasms affect trunk and neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Repeating nonsense words</td>
<td>• Palilalia: repetition of one's own words</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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# Glossary of Terms: Salem Witch Trials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning/Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic</td>
<td>- having to do with status, politics, or wealth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hysteria</td>
<td>- Behavior exhibiting excessive or uncontrollable emotion, such as fear or panic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- A mental disorder characterized by emotional excitability and sometimes by amnesia or a physical deficit, such as paralysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSD</td>
<td>- a powerful hallucinogenic drug [lysergic acid diethylamide, LSD, acid]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affliction</td>
<td>- A condition of pain, suffering, or distress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puritans</td>
<td>- A member of a group of English Protestants who in the 16th and 17th centuries advocated strict religious discipline along with simplification of the ceremonies and creeds of the Church of England.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oppressors</td>
<td>- To keep down by severe and unjust use of force or authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segregation</td>
<td>- The policy or practice of separating people of different races, classes, or ethnic groups, as in schools, housing, and public or commercial facilities, especially as a forth of discrimination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encephalitis</td>
<td>- inflammation of the brain usually caused by a virus; symptoms include headache and neck pain and drowsiness and nausea and fever</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions Concerning the NO side of the Salem Witch Trials

1. List four of the five factors that may have caused the symptoms in Salem, in 1960s.

2. Who was the first woman to be accused of witchcraft?

3. What kind of similarities was found between those who were “bewitched” and those suffering from Encephalitis Lethargica?

4. What are afflictions?

5. How well did most people know their accusers?

6. Why do some historians believe it was a type of feminist action?

7. What does MPI stand for?

8. What are some of the symptoms of MPI?

9. Do you believe puberty is a valid cause for the events that took place in Salem?

10. What does LSD stand for?

11. How might people have come in contact with LSD?

12. Which theory do you believe is most logical, and why?