


The Crucible: Pre-Reading Exploration Board

	Arthur Miller	Literary Terminology	Witchcraft	Colonial America	Red Scare
5	To which famous actress was Arthur Miller married?	Define paradox.	Define hysteria.	What type of government existed in colonial New England before the Revolution?	Define communism.
10		What is the difference between historical fiction and history?	Describe some of the “tests” used in history to determine whether or not a person was a witch.	How were children and adolescents treated in Puritan New England?	What is the HUAC and who is Joseph McCarthy? What did they have in common
15	Identify and explain three reasons Arthur Miller wrote <i>The Crucible</i> .	Define comic relief and give two examples of its use in books you have read or movies you have seen.	Identify three real life participants in the Salem witch trials. Explain each person’s role in the trials and what happened to each of them after the hysteria was over.	Identify and explain three basic Puritan beliefs.	Identify three famous people who were suspected to be Communists by the HUAC. Explain what happened to each of them.
30	Create a timeline of Arthur Miller’s life. Your timeline should include details about at least five significant events.	How does a play differ from a novel? Compare and contrast the two genres using specific literary terminology.	Create a timeline of the Salem Witch Trials. Your timeline should include details about at least five significant events.	Infant mortality was high in Puritan New England. Why? Compare and contrast health conditions for colonial children with those of contemporary children.	Create a timeline of the Red Scare. Your timeline should include details about at least five significant events.
50	Given what you know about the Red Scare and the events in Salem on which Miller based <i>The Crucible</i> , do you think it was a wise decision for him to write this play? Why or why not?	<i>The Crucible</i> contains many Biblical allusions. Research and explain each of the following Biblical allusions from the play: Cain, Abel, Joshua, Pontius Pilate, and Lucifer	The fact that townspeople actually suffered physical symptoms, including seizures, vomiting, and delusions, led people to believe it could really be witchcraft. Today, we realize there are other possible causes of such symptoms. Research possible causes of the hysteria—consider social, scientific, and psychological causes. Explain which cause is the most plausible to you.	Create a profile of the ideal settler of Colonial America. What character traits would enable a person not only to thrive, but also to flourish in the colonies?	Explain how political, social, and psychological factors contributed to the climate of fear that enabled the events of the Red Scare.