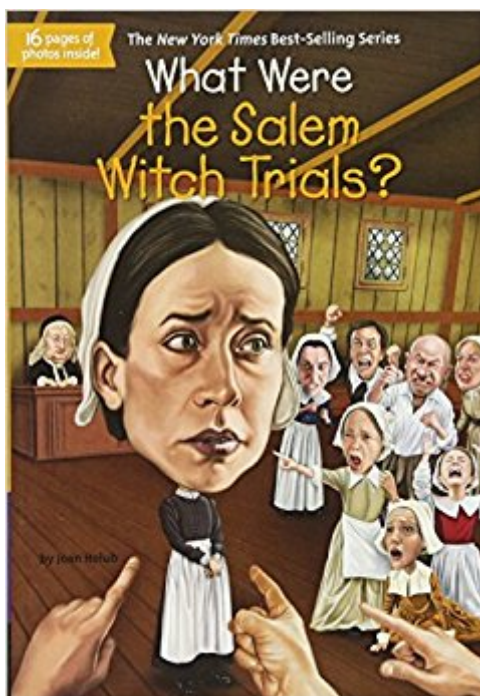


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# What Were The Salem Witch Trials? (What Was?)



## Synopsis

Something wicked was brewing in the small town of Salem, Massachusetts in 1692. It started when two girls, Betty Parris and Abigail Williams, began having hysterical fits. Soon after, other local girls claimed they were being pricked with pins. With no scientific explanation available, the residents of Salem came to one conclusion: it was witchcraft! Over the next year and a half, nineteen people were convicted of witchcraft and hanged while more languished in prison as hysteria swept the colony. Author Joan Holub gives readers an inside look at this sinister chapter in history.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0760 (What's this?)

Series: What Was?

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #41,611 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary #92 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Joan Holub is the author of *What Was the First Thanksgiving?*, *What Was the Gold Rush?*, and other *Who Was...?* titles, including *Who Was Marco Polo?* and *Who Was Babe Ruth?* She lives in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**What Were the Salem Witch Trials?** In the winter of 1692, trouble came to the village of Salem in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Witch trouble! Suddenly, two girls got a strange illness. Their bodies twitched and shuddered. They spoke nonsense and seemed to be choking. They said they were being pinched and poked by something invisible. Soon more girls in Salem began acting strangely,

too. If this was an illness, no one could find a cure. Some villagers thought it might be the work of witches! Witches were serious stuff in the New England colonies. Scary stuff. Many people believed witches were real and that they wanted to hurt people. A hunt began in Salem to catch and punish the witches who were making the girls sick. But who were the witches? Could they be neighbors? Family members? Frightened villagers panicked. They pointed fingers at one another and cried, "Witch!" Over the next ten months, about two hundred people in Salem Village and surrounding areas were accused of witchcraft. Most were women. A few were children. Almost all went to jail. There were trials. There were hangings. Innocent people were convicted of witchcraft and killed. It was horrible! For a while, it seemed there would be no end to this awful time. But eventually, the witch hunt did stop and so did the trials. So, what was really going on in Salem in 1692?

My son loves all of the books in this series! They are wonderful for teaching children about important people and events. This one did not disappoint. He started reading these in 3rd grade, and he still loves them two years later.

It was very informative. I'm going into ninth grade and I remember learning about this in school. Everyone who likes these types of books or this time period like me should read it

This book was awesome but I recommend it for older kids for some facts can be disturbing and almost scary but other than that it's awesome

Was very useful and educational for my daughter who was going to see her cousin in Boston. Helped spur a historical trip to Salem.

Like it and the history from it was great. You learn about the times and the people involved in it.

These books are great for young and old. Perfect small bite or synopsis to inform and entertain.

I love this book my daughter is a history buff and always has her head in a book about history and science!!!!

Very happy with book

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