Scarlet Letter Webquest Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DUE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31st Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Introduction**

Often in literature characters are influenced by the religious and social customs of the period in which they live.  Researching various aspects of Puritan life during the seventeenth century in America will help you gain insight into the setting, characters, and conflicts you will encounter when we begin reading *The* *Scarlet Letter*. You will also see the parallels to modern day life that makes this work of literature timeless.

**The Task**

* In preparation for reading Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, you will be expected to research various events and aspects of Puritan life in the 1600s.  You will also explore the author's biography and relate them to the literary themes we will be studying.
* You will use the Web links to obtain information on the following topics:
  + - **Biography of Nathaniel Hawthorne**
    - **Daily Life in Salem in the 1600s**
    - **Puritanism and Government**
    - **Crime and Punishment**

**The Process**

I. Biography of Nathaniel Hawthorne  
Answer the following questions about Nathaniel Hawthorne.

1. **Give some details about Hawthorne's early life and family.**
2. **How did his Puritan heritage influence him?**
3. **How did Hawthorne perceive nature?**
4. **What was his opinion of women writers?**
5. **What are some common themes that appear in his works?**
6. **Compare Hawthorne to a modern author or screenwriter.**

Biography of Nathaniel Hawthorne Web Links  
[Hawthorne's life](http://www.hawthorneinsalem.org/)

II. Daily Life in Salem  
Answer the following questions about daily life in the 1600s in Puritan New England.

1. **Describe the clothing worn by men and women in Salem.  What types of fabrics were used?**
2. **How did their clothing support their religious views?**
3. **Describe the types of homes that probably existed in Salem. Explain what a palisade is and why it was necessary.**
4. **Describe the family life of Puritans.**
5. **Describe a Puritan meal.**
6. **How did their food and eating habits support their religious views?**
7. **Compare the Puritan daily life to your own.**

Daily Life in Salem Web Links

[Daily Life in a Puritan Village](http://www.ushistory.org/us/3d.asp)  
[Pioneer Houses](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/fnart/fa267/17house.html)  
[Puritan Massachusetts](http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/%7Ejputman/410a/puritpres8am.htm)  
[Puritan Clothing](http://www.cwu.edu/%7Erobinsos/ppages/resources/Costume_History/cavalier.htm)  
[Puritan Women](http://www.historyofquilts.com/earlylife.html)  
[Puritan Children](http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schooladventures/salemwitchtrials/life/children.html)  
[Colonial Daily Life](http://www.east-buc.k12.ia.us/00_01/CA/13c6.htm)

III. Puritanism and Government  
Answer the following questions about Puritanism.

1. **What are the basic Puritan beliefs?  List at least five.**
2. **What is predestination?**
3. **How would Puritans view those of other faiths?**
4. **Why did Puritans come to the New World?**
5. **List five forces undermining Puritanism in the 1600s.**
6. **What is a theocracy and how would it affect the view of Salem residents toward witchcraft?**
7. **Compare Puritan government and ours today.**

Puritanism and Government Web Links  
[Background on Puritan Theology](http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/puritantheology.htm)

[The Legacy of Puritanism](http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/eighteen/ekeyinfo/legacy.htm)

IV. Crime and Punishment

Answer the following questions about Puritan Crime and Punishment.

**1.      According to the “Articles, Lawes and Orders” that Virginia ministers were required to read to their congregations every Sunday, what was the punishment for failing to attend church?**

**2.     What was Boston Roger picked up for and what was his punishment?**

**3.     Give an example of these strict laws being applied to a child.**

**4.      What was Captain Kemble punished for? Do you believe his punishment was justified? Why or why not?**

**5.      Which sex crimes were outlawed?**

**6.      As outraged as you may be by Thomas Grangerford’s behavior, what are your thoughts on the punishment both he and the animals received?**

**7.      Most early systems of justice were predicated on the concepts of vengeance and deterrence, but how did Colonial practice take the matter a step further?**

**8.      What were the stocks, bilboes, ducking stools, the brank, whipping posts, pillories, branding and maiming, the gallows? Which crime was associated with each?**

Crime and Punishment Web Links  
[Colonial Crimes and Punishments](http://www.history.org/foundation/journal/spring03/branks.cfm)

This webquest was modified from one developed by Mary K. Bauer’s and Jennifer Frandsen