

# Why did people believe in witches in the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> centuries?



Key Word	Definition
Demonology	Book on witchcraft written by James I
Devil	In the Bible. Responsible for evil.
Eve	Disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden. Showed that women cannot be trusted.
Familiar	Devil in animal form. The witch's pet.
Germ Theory	Theory of disease discovered in 1861
Swimming Test	Witches were bound and placed in water, if they floated they were guilty
Witch mark	Mole where the witch feeds her familiar her blood.
Witchfinder General	Matthew Hopkins

Witches have always been with us, but there was a moment in history when they were perceived to be especially dangerous. In Europe between 1450 and 1750 large numbers of people were persecuted, prosecuted and executed for being witches. It hadn't happened before, and it hasn't happened since. Why did it happen then?  
*Susanna Lipscombe*



What do I need to know?	
✝	People were very religious and believed in the Bible. The Bible taught people that the Devil existed and was capable of doing evil things. Witches worked for the Devil.
🪙	Most of the people accuse of witchcraft were poor. They were vulnerable individuals who were often forced to beg and this could cause conflict with their richer neighbours.
📖	In 1597 James VI wrote "Demonology" and strongly believed in the existence of witches. In 1604 a law was passed that stated that anyone who practised witchcraft should be executed.
♀	The story of Adam and Eve suggested that women were weaker than men and could not be trusted. Women had no legal identity, no rights over their own children, and it was legal for a husband to beat his wife.
⊕	Until Louis Pasteur discovered germs in 1861 people believed that bad air or God and the devil caused disease. This meant that witchcraft seemed to be an acceptable explanation for illness.

If you want to find out more check out the following links or scan the QR codes on your phone or tablet.

**READ**  
<https://www.historyextra.com/period/history-witches-facts-burned-hanged/>

**SCAN ME**

**WATCH**  
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=MATK1hrDZSc>

**SCAN ME**

**LISTEN**  
<https://radiopublic.com/history-extra-podcast-GENNX4/s1!8f05f>

**SCAN ME**

# Writing good History: Key skills

**Chronology**  
The order in which events happen. The big "story".

**Change/ Continuity**  
Whether things have changed or remained the same over time.

**Similarity/Difference**  
What events or situations have in common, and how they are different.

**Cause**  
The reasons that something happens- long term or trigger cause.






**Consequence**  
Things that happen as a result of an event. Can be good or bad.

**Significance**  
Whether an event is important or not. The impact it has had on people. How it has changed the world.

**Sources**  
Information that comes from the time studied, or that was produced by someone who was there at the time.

**Interpretations**  
The views of people who were not there at the time but have researched the event.





## EXTENDED WRITING: What do I need to know?

	Make sure you include more than once cause when asked to explain WHY something happened.
	If asked if you AGREE you need to include arguments for why you do agree (SUPPORT the statement) and arguments for why you disagree (CHALLENGE the statement). This called having a BALANCED ARGUMENT.
	Try to use the PEE structure- make a POINT that answers the question, add DETAILED EVIDENCE (examples) to support your point, and then EXPLAIN how these are linked.
	Include ANALYSIS that measures the importance of each reason- are they long/short term? Which impacts more people? Are the reasons/points connected?
	Say which reason is most important, or whether you agree or disagree with the statement. This can be done as a conclusion.

## Suggested Vocabulary: What do I need to know?





To show importance	To agree/disagree	Linking points
The primary reason...	The evidence supports the view that...	This meant that...
The most significant cause...	This view is convincing because...	The impact of this was...
A crucial role was played by...	One reason to agree is...	In addition to this...
Of lesser importance was...	An alternative view is...	This acted as a catalyst for...
A key factor was...	A less supported view is...	This led to...
The fundamental cause...	A less convincing argument is...	An immediate consequence was...
A less significant reason...	It is clear that...	Long term this was significant because...

## USING SOURCES: What do I need to know?

	Inferences- to make an inference you need to state what you can learn, or work out from a source. Make sure you take note of the focus of the question!
	Utility- when looking at how USEFUL a source is, you first must state what information the source gives you about the topic in the question. This is the CONTENT of the source. Does the source SUPPORT or CHALLENGE your own knowledge?
	Utility- You next need to look at the PROVENANCE of the source. This means looking at who wrote the source, when it was written, what type of source it is and why it might have been produced. Do these things make the source RELIABLE?
	If answering a "how useful" question you need to make a judgement- How useful is it? Extremely? Quite? Not very? Not at all? You can do this in a CONCLUSION
"..."	Whenever you use written sources you must QUOTE from the source, if using a picture source you must mention something you can SEE in the picture.



## USING INTERPRETATIONS: What do I need to know?

	When looking at the similarities or differences between interpretations make sure you mention the point of view given in BOTH interpretations.
	If you are asked to suggest reasons WHY the interpretations have different views think about whether they FOCUS on different things, or whether one is POSITIVE and the other NEGATIVE, might the authors have done different RESEARCH?
	To decide how far you AGREE with an interpretation, use your own knowledge- does this SUPPORT or CHALLENGE the view given in the interpretation?
	You can also use sources to help you decide whether an interpretation is VALID- do the sources support or challenge the view in the interpretation? Are the sources RELIABLE?
	Remember to always include QUOTES from the interpretations, and include a JUDGEMENT in the conclusion- do you agree?