Background Notes on Puritanism and *The Crucible*

Answer the following questions:

1. Based on what you know, what role did religion play in the founding of America?

2. Based on what you see around you? What role does religion play in America today?

Below, draw a picture that you believe represents how Americans’ view of God has changed.

**At the beginning of America…**

**Today…**
Now, for each of the paintings I show you, write down three details you notice about each painting.

Painting #1 (Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel)
1. 
2. 
3. 

Painting #2 (Creation of the Sun, Moon, and Vegetation)
1. 
2. 
3. 

Painting #3 (The Hand of God)
1. 
2. 
3. 

Painting #4 (God Creating the Universe)
1. 
2. 
3. 

Based on these paintings, and what you know in general, do you agree with the Fox News video? Why or why not?
From the video, answer the following questions:

1. Who is John Calvin?

2. What is the Mayflower Compact? Why is it important to Americans?

3. What right did being a man and a part of a Protestant church earn you in the Massachusetts Bay Colony?

**Early American Religion**

What two types of settlers came to the New World in the first place?

1. 

2. 

**God**

- What was the main way that Puritans viewed God?

**Anglican Church-**

**Purified-**

**Puritan-**

**Pilgrim-**

**Utopia-**

Write two sentences that tie in all of the above vocabulary words. (A sentence that shows their relationship.)
Heaven and Hell

In the computer lab, find a song that represents what your idea of Heaven is. Below, write an explanation for why you picked that song (at least two sentence):

Listen and Chill

Listen to each of the songs that I am going to play for you that your classmates chose as representing Heaven. Write down three characteristics of each song that describe Heaven.

Song #1  Title: ______________________________
1. 
2. 
3. 

Song #2  Title: ______________________________
1. 
2. 
3. 

Song #3  Title: ______________________________
1. 
2. 
3.
When Puritans discussed the “Elect,” to what were they referring? How did they know who was in the Elect?

What does it mean for someone to be damned?

How did the Puritans view the devil?

YOUR OPINION: Do people still view the devil in the same way today?

Sin and Salvation

Original Sin-

Calvinism-

T:

U:

L:

I:

P:

How did the Puritans view marriage?
What is the Puritan work ethic?

Describe the Puritan church and its congregation:

A few notes about the background of *The Crucible*.
The play was written by ___________________________ and was first performed in ________________.
It was almost immediately seen as an allegory for THE RED SCARE.
(An allegory is…)

Because of its supposed status as an allegory, the play wasn’t popular at first because it made people so uncomfortable.
To understand why it made people so uncomfortable, watch this short video…

Make sure to know these terms from the video:

**Senator Joseph McCarthy**-

**The House Committee on Un-American Activities**-

**Communism**-

The effects of the Red Scare are still affecting us today. Think about the modern debate about the border wall or the trade disputes happening with countries around the world.

**Answer this question: should Americans be willing to give up their freedom if it means keeping them safe?**
THE CRUCIBLE

Main Characters

**Reverend Samuel Parris:** The head ________________ of Salem, Massachusetts. His ________________ illness is what started the witch scare.

**Tituba:** The ________________ of the Parris family. One of the first woman accused of witchcraft.

**Abigail Williams:** A servant in the ________________ household. Allegedly had a relationship with ________________, which he ended. (In real life, she was probably eleven years old when this happened!) Abigail was most likely the mastermind behind all of the accusations of ________________.

**John Proctor:** A prominent ________________ in the Salem community. Married to ________________

**Rebecca Nurse:** A prominent citizen of Salem, known all around for her ________________ and ________________.

Other characters

**Betty Paris, Mercy Lewis, and Mary Warren**- three of the girls who, along with Abigail Williams, accuse people of witchcraft.

**Thomas and Ann Putnam**- supporters of the witch trials; they see it as an opportunity to increase their land-holding.

**Reverend John Hale**- A minister famous for his study of witches

**Judge Hathorne, and Governor Danforth**- The men oversee the trial.

THEMES OF THE CRUCIBLE:

1. One’s personal convictions should dictate action rather than society’s expectations.
2. True justice is very hard to come by.
3. Intolerance always breeds destruction of a society.
4. A man’s (or woman’s) good name is the most important thing that he or she can have.
Summary of the Acts

Act I-

Act II-

Act III

Act IV and Epilogue