

Exploring Cause & Consequence

Topic: The Salem Witch Trials (1692)

In this session you will explore the story of the Salem Witch Trials through gentle storytelling and discussion. The focus is not on memorising facts, but on helping children think about how and why events happen. The aim is to build curiosity, confidence and historical thinking skills in a calm and supportive way.

Learning Focus

Understanding Cause and Consequence

Children explore how one event can lead to another. We look at how fear, beliefs, rumours and power influenced what happened in Salem.

Session Flow (Flexible Guide)

Step	What to Do
1. Storytelling	Tell the story of Salem in a simple narrative way. Explain that in 1692 people in the town began accusing others of witchcraft.
2. Gentle Discussion	Ask open questions such as: Why might people have been scared? Why do you think accusations began to spread?
3. Exploring Ideas	Talk together about themes like fear, belief, power and responsibility.
4. Cause & Consequence	Help your child notice how one event led to another. For example: rumours spread → accusations increased → trials began.

Simple Explanation Structure

Use this simple structure to help explain how events connect:

Point – What happened?

Because – Why did it happen?

So – What happened next?

Optional Writing Activity

Invite your child to write just a few sentences using the structure. Example:

- **Point:** Some people in Salem accused others of witchcraft.
- **Because:** They were frightened and believed witches were causing problems.
- **So:** Trials were held and people were punished.

Keep it Gentle and Curious

This session works best as a conversation rather than a formal lesson. Follow your child's questions and ideas. The aim is simply to help them notice that events in history are connected and that understanding **why** things happened helps us understand the past.