

MATTHEW HOPKINS

Reliable, Useful, Significant

It can sometimes be difficult or confusing to tell the difference between **reliability**, **useful** and **significance**. The following activity should help.

Task 1 : look at the list of words and put them into the 'best fit bag '. **Task 2** : write a definition for reliable, useful and significance.

Task 3 : Score source A for each category out of 10.

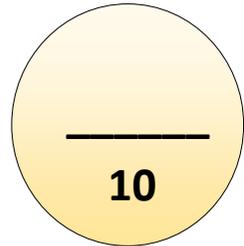
'When King James I came to the throne the law changed to make it illegal for someone to be a witch. Following the publication of the his book 'Demonology' (which discussed in great detail how to identify a witch and what they were capable of) many people began to worry about the possibility of the existence of witches in their village. This period also saw an increase in Puritanism and this also contributed to a harder line being against witches. During the English Civil War (1642-51) the country was in turmoil and a craze of hunting and executing women began to develop.

Edited Extract from Crime and Punishment Revision Guide
www.themanor.notts.sch.uk

True
Important
World Changing
Meaningful
Consequence



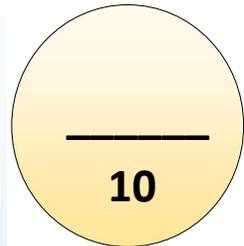
Reliable =



Effective
Informative
Helpful
Revealing
Insightful
Influential



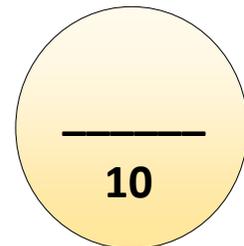
Useful =



Trustworthy
Honest
Accurate
Factual



Significance =



Matthew Hopkins - The Witchfinder General

 **Mission** : to use sources to gain a better understanding about what happened to the stolen children and their families.

Matthew Hopkins is perhaps the most notorious name in the history of English witchcraft, more commonly he was known as “The Witch-Finder General”. Throughout his reign of terror 1645-1646, Hopkins acquired a feared and evil reputation as a ‘fingerman’ (informer), paid by local authorities to commit perjury. Together with his henchman and fellow ‘Witch-Pricker’ John Sterne, in just 14 months, Hopkins was responsible for the condemnations and executions of some 230 alleged witches, more than all the other witch-hunters that proliferated during the 160-year peak of the country’s witchcraft hysteria.

Witchtrials.co.uk

A



The exact number of witches executed by Hopkins and his assistant John Stearne cannot be precisely quantified. But in a paper published by Carol Buckley – *'Orders of the Day'*, she quotes Stearne as estimating that quote "as many as 200 were hanged'.

B

Political and religious chaos reigned throughout the period of the English Civil Wars (1642-49) and it was with this distraction that the previously unheard of, Matthew Hopkins, assumed the title of Witch-finder General in 1645. His career in witch hunting are obscure, but it appears to have come about after he had moved to Essex in 1644. He believed that he found that there were seven or eight witches regularly practicing their dark arts close to his house. Records do not show how he dealt with them, but his puritan background gave him a motivation to destroy the "works of the devil" and, as an impoverished lawyer, he could see the financial incentive of pursuing the hunt on a wider scale.

BBC History

C



Type of trial ?

The torture of witches to extract c _____ s in England, the vast majority of which were female, was less violent than in Europe. The methods favoured in England were bread-and-water diets, tethering of limbs and s _____ deprivation, also known as "watching". Other brutalities which were not practiced, included thumbscrews or, as preferred on the continent, "Spanish boots", which were l _____ boots of leather or metal into which boiling water or molten lead was poured, with the accused's f _____ still in them.

BBC History

E



G

It was also believed that witches could be stabbed without having any mark remaining on their skin, so Hopkins would use a knife with a retractable blade, allowing him to quickly and cunningly prove their guilt. However, a favourite confessional torture of Hopkins was the infamous "swimming" test. The suspect's limbs would be bound together and they would be lowered into pond water by ropes. Hopkins saw the principle as being simple – if they sank and drowned, they would be innocent and in heaven; if they floated, they would be tried as a witch. He found this devious method simple and effective.

BBC History

H

Caption



Hopkins says he daringly eavesdropped on one of the witches meetings, and later said they threatened to k _____ him. Under his interrogation with the aid of Jack Stearne, an unsavoury rascal with a penchant for cruelty, Elizabeth Clarke after the humiliation of being stripped n _____, then searched and poked for witch marks, "was found to have three teats about her, which honest women have not". (Hopkins had seized on a passage from King James's Demonology as a means of detecting witches: Witchcraft meant keeping imps and familiars. Elizabeth was then kept without food or s _____ for three consecutive nights, and on the fourth night of her torture, she c _____ to being a witch, at the same time accusing five other women of witchcraft. Her confession alleged that she kept five familiars, Holt - a white kitten, Jarmara - a spaniel, Sack and Sugar - a black rabbit, Newes - a polecat and Vinegar Tom - a greyhound with a head like an o _____ and a long tail. Hopkins said e _____ people swore they had seen these familiars. In the course of her interrogation the other witches she implicated as accomplices included: Anne West and her daughter Rebecca, Anne Leech, Helen Clarke and Elizabeth Gooding.

Witchtrials.co.uk

J

In 1645, with no more knowledge of witchcraft than was detailed in the book *'Demonology'* by King James the 1st, *The Wonderful Discovery of Witches in the County of Lancaster* by Thomas Potts and Richard Bernard's *A Guide to Grand Jurymen*, Hopkins set himself up and started his lucrative career as the "Witch-Finder General". For his first victim, Hopkins picked on a poor one-legged old hag called Elizabeth Clarke, whose mother had been hanged as a witch before her. At his instigation, she was thrown into prison on suspicion of witchcraft. So as not to leave incriminating evidence, he then devised subtle methods of torture while interrogating her (torture was illegal at that time), and extracted from her a confession leading to the arrest of five other women.

Witchtrials.co.uk

K



L

Hopkins and Stearne believed they were performing a public service with the witch-hunts. But local country-people said that it was Hopkins' personal financial greed that motivated his intentions. Hopkins denied these accusations, citing that, although Stearne and he put themselves at risk with their work, they were welcomed and given "thanks and recompense". But records from their actions in Stowmarket alone show Hopkins was paid £23, and in Aldeburgh he was paid £6 – a relatively high payment when compared with the average countryman's wage of just 6d a day. It was estimated that his fees may have totalled about £1000.

BBC History

M

'When King James I came to the throne the law changed to make it illegal for someone to be a witch. Following the publication of the his book *'Demonology'* (which discussed in great detail how to identify a witch and what they were capable of) many people began to worry about the possibility of the existence of witches in their village. This period also saw an increase in Puritanism and this also contributed to a harder line being against witches. During the English Civil War (1642-51) the country was in turmoil and a craze of hunting and executing women developed.

Edited Extract from Crime and Punishment Revision Guide

O

"Every old woman with a wrinkled face, a furrowed brow, a hairy lip, a gobbler tooth, a squint eye, a squeaking voice or scolding tongue, having a rugged coat on her back, a skull-cap on her head, a spindle in her hand and a dog or cat by her side, is not only suspect but pronounced for a witch"

John Gaule in 'Select Cases of Conscience'. c1646

N

Although much of his life is a well-recorded, open book, Hopkins' (1) demise / d ___ is a mystery. One account, by William Andrews a 19th Century writer on Essex (2) folklore / l _____, argues that Hopkins was accused of being a witch himself. Andrews (3) asserts / s ___ that Hopkins was charged with stealing a book containing a list of all the witches in England, which he purportedly (4) obtained / ___ by means of sorcery. Hopkins declared his innocence, but an angry crowd forced him to undergo his own "swimming" (5) trial / t ___ . Some say he drowned, while others say he floated and was condemned and hanged. (6) However, / b ___ no records of his trial exist.

BBC History

P

Matthew Hopkins - Witchfinder General

 **Task:** study the sources provided to complete the tasks outlined below.


Compare


Question


Add Word


Vocab


Choose


Biased?


List


Meaning


Seeing

A

Pro Matthew Anti-Matthew Both

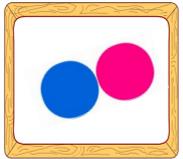
Do you think this source contains bias ? Give an example to support.



B

Pro Matthew Anti-Matthew Both

Compare content of sources A and B



Something supported / corroborated :

Something not supported / not corroborated :

C

Pro Matthew Anti-Matthew Both

Give TWO reasons why Matthew may have hunted 'witches'.



D

Pro Matthew Anti-Matthew Both

What type of test was this ? Use source H to help you



E

Pro Matthew Anti-Matthew Both

Study source E and add the missing words below



C =	S =
L =	F =

F

Pro Matthew Anti-Matthew Both

Write a caption for this source





Compare

Question

Add Word

Vocab

Message

Biased?

List

Meaning

Seeing

G

Pro Matthew

Anti-Matthew

Both

Describe what is happening (use source J to help you)



H

Pro Matthew

Anti-Matthew

Both

Describe the 'prick test' con !



J

Pro Matthew

Anti-Matthew

Both

Complete the missing words form the source



K -	N -
S -	C -
O -	E -

K

Pro Matthew

Anti-Matthew

Both

Why did Hopkins choose Elizabeth Clarke as his fist victim ?



L

Pro Matthew

Anti-Matthew

Both

What type of test is being shown in this image ?



M

Pro Matthew

Anti-Matthew

Both

Compare this source to source C



Something corroborated =
Something corroborated =
Something NOT corroborated =
Something NOT corroborated =



Compare

Question

Add Word

Vocab

Message

Biased?

List

Meaning

Seeing

N

Pro Matthew

Anti-Matthew

Both



List the reasons a why woman may have been accused of being a witch

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

O

Pro Matthew

Anti-Matthew

Both



3 reasons for the rise in persecution of 'witches'

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

P

Pro Matthew

Anti-Matthew

Both



Add similar / simpler words to those following those in the source

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.





"I have this day received a Letter, to come to a Towne called Great Staughton, to search for evil disposed persons, called Witches (though I hear your Minister is farre against us through ignorance :) I have known a Minister in Suffolke preach as much against their discovery in a Pulpit, and forced to recant it (by the Committee) in the same place. I much marvaile such evil Members should have any who should daily preach Terrour to convince such Offenders, stand up to take their parts, against such as are Complainants for the King and suffers themselves, with their Families and Estates. I intend to gave your Towne a Visit suddenly. I am to come Kimbolton this weeke, and shall bee tenne to one, but I will come to your Towne first, but I would certainly know afore, whether your Towne affords many Sticklers for such Cattell, or willing to gave and afford es good welcome and entertainment, as other where I have beene, else I shall wave your Shire (not as yet beginning in any part of it myselfe) and betake me to such places, where I doe, and may persist without controle, but with thanks and recompense. So I humbly take my leave and rest, your Servant to be Commanded"

Matthew Hopkins.

Who created this source: _____ their job, role or position: _____

Who is it for / audience: _____

When was it created: Year: _____ Century: _____ BCE CE Primary Secondary Tertiary

Where is the person who created the source from? _____

What type of source is it: Letter / Speech / Diary / Other : _____

What is the content of the source. Summarise this in your own words rather than just copy out lines.

Firstly the source says: _____

Furthermore it reveals: _____

Additionally it illustrates : _____

Finally it shows us : _____

Why was the source created. Is there a special reason or motive? _____

Use the bias indicators below to help decide if the source is reliable or not. Think about 1: **Provenance**, the origins or where the source came from . 2: **Content**, what the source says 3: **Corroboration**, is the content supported by other sources or your own knowledge?

C O N T E N T	What		P R O V E N A N C E	Who	When	Where	Why
	Unreliable	Uses opinions One sided Strong Language Emotional Confused Boastful Exaggerates Subjective Not Corroborated		Reliable Uses facts Balanced Softer Language Calm Clear Modest Understates Objective Corroborated	Could the person know things others do not? Do they have an important job? Is the person trustworthy? Could their 'audience' influence what is said or written?	Primary sources from a good eyewitness may be truthful, <u>but</u> they can also be confused or emotional. Primary sources may be recorded a long time after the event so the person may have forgotten some details. Secondary sources may get changed over time. The person was not there, <u>but</u> they can be written with less emotion and using information that was not available at the time..	Where a person comes from may influence the reliability of a source. For example, a German in 1942 may be biased towards a Jewish person and a Jewish person may feel angry towards Germans even today.

Unreliable 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Reliable

1: Source provenance may may not make the source reliable because: _____

Example from the source : " _____ "

2: The source content may may not make the source reliable because: _____

Example from the source : " _____ "

3: Any other ideas why the source may or may not be reliable. Is the source supported / corroborated?



Montague Summers (1880-1948) a Catholic Priest devoutly against witchcraft, an eminent scholar of Trinity College Oxford, a prolific author who wrote extensively about the darker sides of witchcraft, demonology and vampirism, and who believed adamantly that witches were evil servants of the devil 'Satan' who throughout history deserved all the punishments they received, describes Matthew Hopkins as: "an orthodox Puritan of narrowest views, which were certainly adopted for convenience rather than from conviction, he was energetic enough so far as his own pockets were concerned, and his crusade up and down the eastern counties, which created something like a reign of terror at the time, has caused his name to stink in the nostrils of all decent persons ever since".

Witchtrials.co.uk - published by George Knowles. 2007

Who created this source: _____ their job, role or position: _____

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C O N T E N T	What		P R O V E N A N C E	Who	When	Where	Why
	Unreliable	Reliable		Who	When	Where	Why
Uses opinions	Uses facts	Could the person know things others do not?	Primary sources from a good eyewitness may be truthful, <u>but</u> they can also be confused or emotional. Primary sources may be recorded a long time after the event so the person may have forgotten some details.	Where a person comes from may influence the reliability of a source. For example, a German in 1942 may be biased towards a Jewish person and a Jewish person may feel angry towards Germans even today.	Does the person have a motive or a reason to lie?		
One sided	Balanced	Do they have an important job?	Secondary sources may get changed over time. The person was not there, <u>but</u> they can be written with less emotion and using information that was not available at the time..		Does the person have a reason to tell the truth?		
Strong Language	Softer Language	Is the person trustworthy?			Could it be propaganda?		
Emotional	Calm	Could their 'audience' influence what is said or written?					
Confused	Clear						
Boastful	Modest						
Exaggerates	Understates						
Subjective	Objective						
Not Corroborated	Corroborated						

Unreliable 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Reliable

1: Source provenance may may not make the source reliable because: _____

Example from the source : " _____ "

2: The source content may may not make the source reliable because: _____

Example from the source : " _____ "

3: Any other ideas why the source may or may not be reliable. Is the source supported / corroborated?

Matthew Hopkins Summary

Mission: to complete a brief summary of the life and times of Matthew Hopkins

My Witchfinder Summary

- 1 Years
- 2 The Witchfinder
- 3 Where ?
- 4 Accomplice
- 5 Reason for fear
- 6 Reason for fear
- 7 Mathew's motive
- 8 Why women targeted
- 9 Method used
- 10 Method used
- 11 Method used
- 12 Consequence
- 13 Consequence

1	6	1	4	5	c
13			4		
2			9		
			7		
			8		
11			12		
			3		

Matthew Hopkins Summary

Mission: to complete a brief summary of the life and times of Matthew Hopkins

My Witchfinder Summary

1	Years	c1645
2	The Witchfinder	Matthew Hopkins
3	Where ?	Essex
4	Accomplice	John Stearne
5	Reason for fear	Puritanism
6	Reason for fear	Civil War Chaos
7	Mathew's motive	Money
8	Why women targeted	Easy Target
9	Method used	Swim test
10	Method used	Pricking
11	Method used	Watching
12	Consequence	Murder of women
13	Consequence	Hopkins himself killed?

1 6 1 4 5 c

13 RIP 4

2 9

7

10

6 8

11 12

5 3

The Witchfinder General

 **Task:** translate the poem 'Hudibras' by Samuel Butler.

Hath not this present Parl'ament

A Lieger to the Devil sent,

Fully impower'd to treat about

Finding revolted Witches out?

And has he not within a year

Hang'd threescore of them in one Shire?

Some only for not being drown'd,

And some for sitting above ground.

Whole days and nights upon their Breeches,

And feeling pain, were hang'd for Witches

And some for putting knavish Tricks

Upon green Geese or Turkey Chicks

Or Pigs that suddenly deceast

Of griefs unnatural, as he guess'd

Who after proved himself a Witch

And made a rod for his own Breech.



From Samuel Butler's - Hudibras, published in 1663.

THE WITCH CRAZE

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