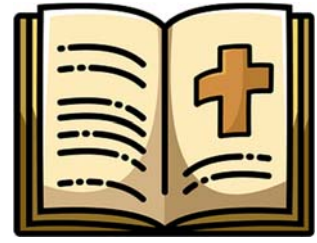


Name _____

Leaders' Voices



Directions: Read each excerpt and answer the questions that follow using evidence from the text.

Document A - From Governor William Phips to London Officials (1692)

"I found the people in great confusion. Accusations increased each day, and the jails were filled. I created a special court to bring order, but now I fear that mistakes have been made. Spectral evidence must no longer decide matters of life and death."

1. According to Governor Phips, what was happening in Salem when he arrived?

2. Why did he create a special court? What did he hope it would do?

3. What problem does he point out about how the court made decisions?

Document B - Cotton Mather, Puritan Minister

"Witchcraft is a dreadful sin. Though the evidence be strange, we must not allow the Devil's work to go unpunished. The court must be careful, yet firm, so that wickedness does not spread."

1. What does Cotton Mather believe the court should do about witchcraft?

2. How does his view support the continuation of the trials?

Synthesis: How do the two authors disagree about how the trials should continue?
