



A Midwife's Tale Video

Essay Directions



You will be watching the video, *A Midwife's Tale*, which focuses on women's roles in the late 1700s/early 1800s. As you watch the video, you will notice that the women's lives then are very different from the lives of women living today. Take notes on how the women deal with

1. **medical care**
2. **weddings/marriage**
3. **housework**
4. **pregnancy/birth**

After watching the video you will **write a paper that compares and contrasts women's lives then and now when it comes to medical care, marriage, housework, and pregnancy.**

- Title: create a title for your paper that reflects the topic.
- Paragraph 1- Thesis: This is where you will introduce the topic and information that will be included in the rest of your paper.
- Paragraphs 2, 3, 4- Body: In these paragraphs you will **compare and contrast** three (3) of the 4 aspects: medical care, marriage, housework, and pregnancy. One paragraph per topic and you can pick the order of your aspect paragraphs.
- Paragraph 5- Conclusion: This is your conclusion paragraph. You will summarize the body of the essay here.

Please type your paper. 12 point font, double-spaced, standard margins.

This paper is worth 60 points. Each paragraph is worth 10 points & grammar is 10 points.

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*A Midwife's Tale* People

- Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, modern day historian
- Martha Ballard- wife, mother, midwife, diary writer
- Ephraim Ballard- Martha's husband, surveyor

Their Children:

- Cyrus
- Lucy
- Jonathan
- Hannah, later called Daughter Pollard
- Dolly
- Ephraim, Junior
- Parthenia Barton, Martha's niece, later called Mrs. Pitts
- Joseph North, judge
- Sally, Johnathan's girlfriend
- Benjamin Page, new doctor

Vocabulary

- Tarry- to stay or wait
- Expire- to die or end
- Laudanum- pain relieving drug (related to opium & morphine)
- Daughter- pronounced like "dafter"

## *A Midwife's Tale* Alternate Essay

Research and write an essay about one of the invention/innovation topics below. Compare and contrast the change in technology from 1700s/1800s to modern day. (The links can be used as a starting point for your research.)

- Medicine and germ theory
  - [http://www.historyisfun.org/pdfbooks/colonial\\_medicine.pdf](http://www.historyisfun.org/pdfbooks/colonial_medicine.pdf)
  - <https://www.stmaryscity.org/History/Medicine.html>
  - <http://www.mnwellid.org/docs/history/history03.htm>
  - <http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/contagion/germtheory.html>
- Land surveying tools and process:
  - <http://www.landsurveyors.com/resources/history-of-land-surveying/>
  - <http://www.surveyhistory.org/museum1.htm>
  - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surveying>
- Sawmills and lumber production:
  - [http://osv.org/explore\\_learn/document\\_viewer.php?Action=View&DocID=1071](http://osv.org/explore_learn/document_viewer.php?Action=View&DocID=1071)
  - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawmill>
  - [http://www.engr.psu.edu/mtah/articles/colonial\\_wood\\_water.htm](http://www.engr.psu.edu/mtah/articles/colonial_wood_water.htm)
- Looms & cloth production:
  - [http://inventors.about.com/od/indrevolution/a/history\\_textile.htm](http://inventors.about.com/od/indrevolution/a/history_textile.htm)
  - [http://inventors.about.com/od/cstartinventors/a/power\\_loom.htm](http://inventors.about.com/od/cstartinventors/a/power_loom.htm)
  - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loom> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power\\_loom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_loom)
- Or pick another topic inspired by something seen in the video. Get approval from the teacher before picking this option.

- Title: create a title for your paper that reflects the topic.
- Paragraph 1- Thesis: This is where you will introduce the topic and information that will be included in the rest of your paper.
- Paragraphs 2, 3, 4- Body: In these paragraphs you will describe what your topic was like in the past and compare and contrast it to today.
- Paragraph 5- Conclusion: This is your conclusion paragraph. You will summarize the body of the essay here.
- Bibliography: Cite the sources of information that you used.