



The Pendle Witches

10 A long time ago, some people used to think that
17 witches existed if strange things happened. In
25 Lancaster, a lady called Alison was walking along
34 a path when she saw a shopkeeper called John
44 Law. She asked him if she could buy some pins
54 but she did not have much money. Pins were very
64 expensive and John did not want to give them to
73 her. As John carried on walking, he suddenly fell
82 over. People believed that Alison had put a spell
92 on John because she was upset that she could not
102 have the pins she wanted. This was not true and
111 Alison was not a witch – John was just poorly.

Quick Questions



1. Number these events from 1 to 3 to show the order they happened in.

_____ John fell over.

_____ Alison asked John for some pins.

_____ John said no to Alison.



2. Which word in the text means that something costs a lot of money?



3. Why might people have thought that Alison was a witch?



4. Where did the events in the text happen?



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Answers



1. Number these events from 1 to 3 to show the order they happened in.

- 3 John fell over.
- 1 Alison asked John for some pins.
- 2 John said no to Alison.



2. Which word in the text means that something costs a lot of money?

expensive



3. Why might people have thought that Alison was a witch?

Accept any sensible justification linked to the fact that John fell over straight after saying no to her, e.g. People might think that Alison was a witch because John was poorly straight away after not giving her the pins.



4. Where did the events in the text happen?

Lancaster