



## 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**