Strong Superstitions

The Tudors were very superstitious people and many believed in the powers of witchcraft. Their daily rituals often revolved around these superstitions.

People feared the night and the dark as this was when they believed that evil spirits were lurking. To ward off evil spirits during Tudor times, it was common for people to carry charms for good luck. These objects were believed to have magical powers and were purchased from 'wise men/women' or 'cunning folk'.

There was a fear that witches could enter a property through its chimneys, windows or doors so many people made burn marks called 'taper burns' to keep them away.

People were so terrified of witches that many innocent people (especially poor, single women) were accused of witchcraft and punished.

Questions

1. Find and copy a word which means the same as 'bought'.

2. Why did people make taper burns?

3. Why do you think that so many people believed in witches during the Tudor era?

4. **... many innocent people (especially poor, single women) were accused of witchcraft.**
Why are these people described as 'innocent'?

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Answers

1. Find and copy a word which means the same as 'bought'.
   purchased

2. Why did people make taper burns?
   People made taper burns to keep away witches.

3. Why do you think that so many people believed in witches during the Tudor era?
   Pupils' own responses, such as: I think so many people believed in witchcraft because they didn't have the scientific knowledge that we have now to explain why things happen.

4. **... many innocent people (especially poor, single women) were accused of witchcraft.**
   Why are these people described as 'innocent'?
   Pupils' own responses, such as: They are described as innocent because we no longer believe that people can be guilty of being witches.