**The Handmaid’s Tale – Webquest**

**Process**: Use the following sites, please do the research and hand write clear answers.

🡺 this will constitute your lesson so take clear notes.

Do not hesitate to ask for help at any time needed.

You will hand in one answer sheet per person.

**I- Genre**

M. Atwood has often been asked about the genre of the Handmaid’s Tale. In her interviews, three categories were mention. Find out about them (Name + characteristics)

<https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=ustopia>

<https://www.storyboardthat.com/lesson-plans/the-handmaids-tale-by-margaret-atwood/dystopian-elements>

<https://bookriot.com/what-is-speculative-fiction/>

**II**-**Gilead** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilead>

1. Where does the name come from?
2. According to the [Book of Hosea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Hosea), what does ‘Gilead’ mean? What does it tell you about the setting of the novel?

**III- What are the two questions M. Atwood tried to answer in her novel?** <https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/2018/margaret-atwood-interview/>

**IV- Learn more about the contemporary context: the 1980s.**

**POLITICS:**

1. 1980 presidential elections. <https://www.britannica.com/event/United-States-presidential-election-of-1980>

* Who (name-party) was elected president of the USA in 1980? What was his first job? Who was his running mate?
* How would you qualify the results? Close majority? Crushing majority? Explain.

1. Learn about a major support of the president. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moral_Majority>

* Find information about the name of the group, the name of its founder, its political agenda[[1]](#footnote-1).

**CULTURE:** [**https://www.nme.com/list/100-best-songs-of-the-1980s-1161**](https://www.nme.com/list/100-best-songs-of-the-1980s-1161)

Imagine Margaret Atwood’s musical playlist while writing The Handmaid’s Tale.

(select three songs-briefly justify your choice)

**V- History : learn about the history that inspired Gilead’s society.** <https://www.legendsofamerica.com/puritans/>

1. Who were the Puritans?
2. What was the goal of the Puritans who set sail for America in 1630? Which town did they establish?
3. Why did people live in a constant state of fear?
4. Give at least five examples of puritan laws.
5. Discover another novel which explores the puritan colonial period. Pick out the following elements:

= Title, author, date.

= key words about the plot and genre

**VI- “History does not repeat itself, but it rhymes.” Margaret Atwood-The Testament**

One of Atwood’s central axioms is that nothing can be included in her fiction that hadn’t happened somewhere in the world. As Atwood has reminded us: she didn’t make this stuff up, the human race did. “If I was to create an imaginary garden, I wanted the toads\* in it to be real,” she wrote in a recent introduction to The Handmaid’s Tale. \**crapeau*

# Learn about moments in history that inspired The Handmaid's Tale : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vQkQg0czN0>

Take note about:

* What - When and where it took place

1. /əˈdʒendə/ an underlying often [ideological](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ideological) plan or program [↑](#footnote-ref-1)