

# Week 5 Student Workbook

January 26 - February 1, 2026: The Framework of Death

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Started: \_\_\_\_\_

## This Week's Focus

This week, you'll meet the judge who will preside without mercy, the minister who will be accused of leading the witches, and the people whose fits will determine guilt. You'll learn about the law that made witchcraft a capital crime, and you'll see how ordinary disputes became deadly accusations.

---

## Daily Learning (January 26 - February 1)

### January 26: William Stoughton - The Judge

#### Key Facts:

- Born in England in 1631/1632, came to Massachusetts as an infant
- Graduated from Harvard in 1650, earned master's from Oxford
- Already had witch trial experience in the 1680s
- Appointed Lieutenant Governor and Chief Justice in 1692
- Never married, never apologized for his role

**Quick Question:** Why does it matter that Stoughton already had experience judging witch trials?

---

---

---

### January 27: George Burroughs - The Accused Minister

#### Key Facts:

- Born in Virginia around 1653, graduated from Harvard in 1670
- Salem Village minister 1680-1683, left over unpaid salary dispute

- Survived multiple frontier attacks in Maine
- Married three times, knew afflicted girl Mercy Lewis from Falmouth
- Arrested May 4, 1692, executed August 19, 1692
- Recited the Lord's Prayer perfectly at the gallows

**Quick Question:** Why might Burroughs' survival of multiple attacks make him vulnerable to witchcraft accusations?

---



---



---

## January 28: Salem Village Independence

### Key Facts:

- Salem Village fought for independence from Salem Town for decades
- Finally gained right to ordain a minister in 1689
- Samuel Parris was ordained just before the crisis began
- Putnam family supported independence, Porter family opposed
- These factional lines mirrored accusation lines
- Village finally incorporated as Danvers in 1757

**Quick Question:** How might a decades-long factional struggle make a community vulnerable to witch accusations?

---



---



---

## January 29: The Body of Liberties - The Law

### Key Facts:

- Compiled in 1641 by Nathaniel Ward
- New England's first legal code
- Protected civil rights BUT also listed 12 capital crimes
- First three: false gods, witchcraft, blasphemy
- The law said: "If any man or woman be a witch, that is hath or consulteth with a familiar spirit, They shall be put to death"

### Fill in the blanks:

The Body of Liberties was compiled in \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

It made \_\_\_\_\_ a capital crime punishable by \_\_\_\_\_.

A familiar spirit was \_\_\_\_\_.

**Quick Question:** What does it mean that witchcraft was defined as a capital crime in the legal code?

---

---

---

## January 30: The Curses and The Cursed

### Key Examples:

**Martha Carrier** told Benjamin Abbott he would regret a land grant. He later developed sores.

**Sarah Good** muttered when denied charity. The Gages' cow died the next morning.

**Susannah Martin** argued with John Allen about oxen. His oxen ran into the sea and drowned.

**Margaret Scott** told Daniel Wycomb "You will not get your corn out tonight." His oxen refused to pull the cart.

**Wilmot Redd** wished Mrs. Sims "might never urinate nor defecate" after a theft dispute. Mrs. Sims got sick.

**Quick Question:** What do all these examples have in common? What kind of events led to accusations?

---

---

---

## January 31: The Afflicted Persons

### Key People:

**Betty Parris** (age 9) - Parris's daughter, first afflicted, later removed from village

**Abigail Williams** (age 11) - Parris's niece, first afflicted, saw "little black minister"

**Ann Putnam Jr.** (age 12) - Over 100 depositions, only one to apologize in 1706

**Ann Putnam Sr.** (mid-30s) - Adult accuser, testimony carried more weight

**Elizabeth Hubbard** (age 17) - Old enough to testify under oath

**John Indian** (adult) - Enslaved man who became afflicted to avoid suspicion after his wife Tituba was accused

**Total afflicted:** Historian Marilynne K. Roach identifies 73 people

**Quick Question:** Why does it matter that adults like Ann Putnam Sr. and John Indian were also afflicted, not just children?

---

---

---

## February 1: Animals in the Salem Witch Trials

### Three Categories:

#### 1. Victims of Maleficium (harmed by witchcraft):

- Cows that stopped giving milk
- Oxen that died or ran into brooks
- Horses that got sick

#### 2. The Devil's Shapes:

- Black dogs
- Cats (black and red)
- Hogs
- White calves
- Monkey with rooster head

#### 3. Familiars (helpers for witches):

- Yellow bird (seen in courtroom)
- Snakes (4-year-old Dorothy Good's familiar)
- Wolves
- Cats
- Rats

**Fact:** At least 2 dogs were put to death, declared bewitched.

**Quick Question:** Why would a dead cow or sick horse be considered evidence of witchcraft?

---

---

---

## This Week's Big Ideas

**The Legal Framework Was in Place:** The Body of Liberties made witchcraft a capital crime. The judges believed in witchcraft and had prior experience. The law was clear.

**The Accusers Were Ready:** Not just children, but adults whose testimony carried legal weight. Ann Putnam Sr. was mid-30s. John Indian became afflicted to protect himself.

**Ordinary Disputes Became Evidence:** A muttered curse. A refused loan. A dead cow. A sick horse. Neighborly conflicts over land, livestock, and charity became proof of diabolical pacts.

**The Judge Was Experienced:** William Stoughton had already presided over witch trials in the 1680s. He believed in the crime and knew how to prosecute it.

**The Framework of Death Was Complete:** Law + Judges + Accusers + Evidence Standards = A system where conviction was nearly guaranteed.

---

## Vocabulary

**Body of Liberties:** The 1641 legal code that made witchcraft a capital crime

**Familiar Spirit:** A devil in bodily shape (like a bird or cat) that a witch consulted with

**Capital Crime:** A crime punishable by death

**Maleficium:** Harm caused by witchcraft, usually to animals or property

**Spectral Evidence:** Testimony about what a person's spirit allegedly did

**The Afflicted:** The people who claimed to be tormented by witches

**Court of Oyer and Terminer:** The emergency court created in May 1692 to try witchcraft cases

---

## Weekly Reflection

Answer these questions:

1. How did the legal framework enable the trials?

---

---

**2. Why did adult accusers matter more than child accusers?**

---

---

**3. How did ordinary neighborly disputes become evidence of witchcraft?**

---

---

**4. What does it mean that William Stoughton already had witch trial experience?**

---

---

**5. Predict what happens when the examinations begin on March 1:**

---

---

---

---

## Share Your Learning

**Did you:**

- Explain the Body of Liberties to someone?
- Tell someone about William Stoughton?
- Discuss how curses became evidence?
- Talk about the afflicted persons?
- Post on social media using #SalemWeek5?

**What did you share?**

---

---

---

## Progress Check

```
<div style="margin: 20px 0;"> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; border-radius: 10px; height: 30px; width: 100%; position: relative; overflow: hidden;"> <div style="background: linear-gradient(90deg, #8b4513 0%, #d2691e 100%); height: 100%; width: 6.7%; transition: width 0.3s ease;"></div> </div> <p style="margin-top: 8px; font-size: 14px; color: #666;">Week 5 of ~75 weeks | ~6.7% Complete | January 2026 - May 2027</p> </div>
```

## You completed Week 5!

You now understand:

- The law that made witchcraft a capital crime
- The judge who would preside without mercy
- The adult and child accusers
- How ordinary disputes became deadly evidence
- The framework that made conviction nearly inevitable

**Next week:** The first examinations begin on March 1, 1692.

---

## Your Badges

- #SalemDailyStudent
- #SalemWeek5
- #SalemDescendantPathStudent (if applicable)

**Post your progress using:** #SalemDailyStudent #SalemWeek5 #ThingAboutSalem

---

**Great work this week! See you next week when the examinations begin.**

---

This completes all three Week 5 deliverables:

1.  Week 5 Blog
2.  Week 5 Standard Edition Workbook
3.  Week 5 Student Workbook

All materials maintain the established format, tone, and educational approach while synthesizing content from the daily transcripts and topic documents for January 26 - February 1, 2026.