

## CONTENTS

Introduction . . . . .	4
<b>Chapter 1:</b> Accused of Witchcraft . . . . .	6
<b>Chapter 2:</b> Saving Grand Central . . . . .	14
<b>Chapter 3:</b> Yellowstone Wolf Gunned Down . . . . .	26
<b>Chapter 4:</b> Redwood Slated to Get the Ax . . . . .	38
<b>Chapter 5:</b> DNA Frees Snaggletooth Murderer . . . . .	50
<b>Chapter 6:</b> The Innocence Project . . . . .	60
<b>Chapter 7:</b> Endangered Species of the Gulf . . . . .	70
<b>Chapter 8:</b> DogTown . . . . .	80
Glossary . . . . .	90
Index . . . . .	92

## INTRODUCTION

What does it mean to be condemned? If a person commits a crime or does something bad, that person may be condemned.

Not everyone agrees on who should be condemned. Sometimes it is hard to know what or who is right.

For example, Giles Corey lived in Massachusetts in the 1600s. He was accused of witchcraft. Not everyone thought he was guilty. But he was condemned to death by a court.

More recently, Ray Krone was accused of a young woman's murder. He did not kill anyone. Sadly, he spent a long time in jail.

People are not the only ones who are condemned. Fierce animals are condemned too. Farmers do not want wolves to eat their animals. The farmers sometimes even kill the wolves.

Even buildings and trees get condemned. The owners of New York's Grand Central railway station wanted to tear down the building or build on top of it. Luckily, other people thought it was beautiful and wanted to save it from destruction.

People like Julia Hill want to save condemned trees. Loggers turn these trees into lumber for houses. However, if the oldest trees are cut down, it could take hundreds of years to replace them.

Do the condemned deserve their fate? Who and what should be saved?

## CHAPTER 1

### *Accused of Witchcraft*

# DATAFILE

## Timeline

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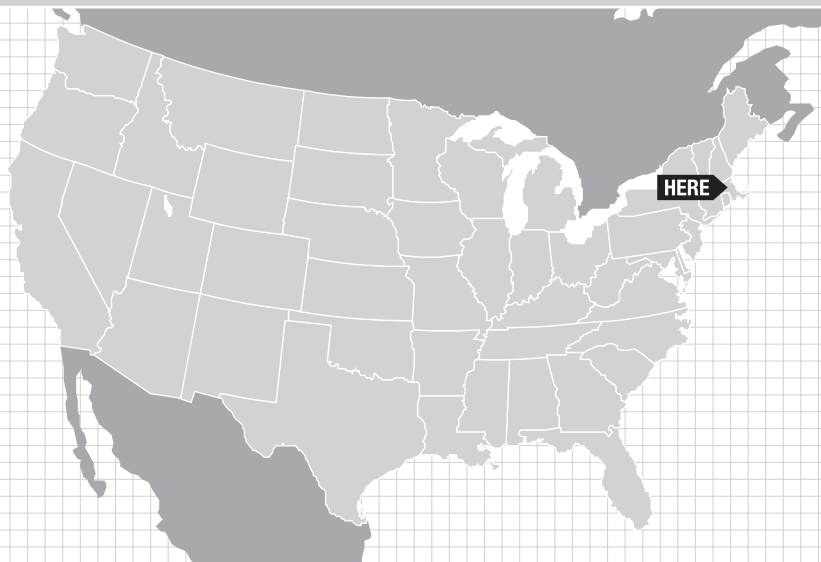
### **January 1692**

Girls in Salem accuse others of witchcraft.

### **September 1692**

Giles Corey accused of witchcraft. He is placed under heavy stones and is crushed to death.

## Where Salem, Massachusetts?



## Key Terms

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**accusation**—a charge of wrongdoing; a statement that someone is to blame

**condemn**—to judge as guilty or unfit

**confess**—to admit to a crime

**hysterics**—a severe attack of panic or distress

**property**—things that a person owns

**torture**—inflicting pain or hurting someone so that he or she will confess or give information



### ***Did You Know?***

In the 1600s, courts were not like our courts today. They allowed “spectral evidence.” This meant someone could say that the spirit of another person was hurting them. This spectral evidence proved the accused person was a witch.

## CHAPTER 1

### *Accused of Witchcraft*

The people of Salem were in hysterics. Two young girls, Ann Putnam and Abigail Williams, fell ill. They screamed and had terrible fits. Dr. Griggs could find nothing wrong.

His conclusion: It must be witchcraft!

The girls blamed some townspeople for their illnesses. They said the people's spirits tortured them. The townspeople believed the accused must be witches.

The accused were brought to trial in Salem. If they confessed to witchcraft, they were sent to prison. If they did not confess, the court most often found them guilty anyway. If the court found them guilty, they were often hung.

## **Witch-Hunt Victims of Salem**

**Accused of witchcraft: 100+**

**Hanged: 19**

**Pressed to death: 1**

**Died in prison: 4**



A courtroom scene from one of the Salem witchcraft trials

## The Accusation

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In April 1692, the girls accused Giles Corey of Salem village. He was 80 years old. He was to be tried in September. Corey was very frightened. The court had already hung 11 people that summer, even though there was no real proof they were witches.

Many others were in prison. Corey's own wife, Martha, was also accused. If they were both put in prison or hung, the court might take their house and farm.

Corey gave all his property to his two daughter's husbands. But he was afraid the court might also take it from the two men. Many other people in prison had already lost their land.



## The Torture

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Corey was a stubborn man. Not everyone liked him. He often disagreed with his neighbors about land. And when he thought he was right, he did not back down. Corey had even taken a few men to court to settle these arguments.

As many as 12 people said Corey was a witch. Some were people he had argued with. Corey was sent to trial for witchcraft.

But Corey was different from other accused people in Salem. He kept silent. The court could not try him, because he would not talk.

This must have made the court very angry. They wanted Corey to confess to witchcraft. So they tortured him. Torture was legal back in those days.

On September 17, 1692, the sheriff and six men from Salem tied Corey up. They put him under a big board. Then, they put heavy stones on top of the board.

They asked Corey again and again if he was a witch. He would not talk, so they added more stones. They left him there all night under the heavy stones.

The next day, eight other people were condemned by the court. All eight would later hang and lose their houses and farms.

Corey was stubborn. He still would not confess. They added more stones. Corey could hardly breathe. The only thing he said was, "More weight."

All day the Salem men added large stones to the pile already on Corey's chest.