

## **Witchcraft**

The use of magic or supernatural powers to inflict harm on others

## **Magic**

The use of means (such as charms or spells) believed to have supernatural power over natural forces.

## **Swimming a Witch**

The use of power gained from the assistance or control of evil spirits especially for divining

## **Witch-Finder**

A 17th century investigator charged with hunting down and obtaining evidence against supposed witches.

## **Superstition**

A belief or practice resulting from ignorance, fear of the unknown, trust in magic or chance, or a false conception of causation.

## **Short Drop**

A method of hanging in which the condemned prisoner stands on a raised support such as a stool, ladder, cart, or other vehicle, with the noose around the neck. The support is then moved away, leaving the person dangling from the rope

## **Devil's Mark**

A spot on the body of a person held guilty of witchcraft that was supposed to be insensible because the devil had touched it in sealing his bargain with the witch.

## **Sorcery**

The use of power gained from the assistance or control of evil spirits especially for divining

## **Maleficium**

An act of witchcraft performed with the intention of causing damage or injury; the resultant harm.

## **Cunning Folk**

Also known as folk healers or wise folk, were practitioners of folk medicine, helpful folk magic and divination.

## **Necromancy**

Conjuration of the spirits of the dead for purposes of magically revealing the future or influencing the course of events.

## **Daemon**

A supernatural being whose nature is intermediate between that of a god and that of a human being.

## **Witch**

A person (especially a woman) who is credited with having usually malignant supernatural powers.

## **Spell**

A spoken word or set of words believed to have magic power.

## **Familiar**

An entity that has a spiritual bond with a witch, sometimes said to shape shift into a physical being such as a companion animal.

## **Evil Eye**

A particular look or stare that is believed to bring bad luck for the person at whom it is directed, for reasons of envy or dislike.

**All Definitions come from:**

**Meriam-Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. 2023, [www.meriam-webster.com](http://www.meriam-webster.com). Accessed 22 November 2023..**

**Library of Congress. 2023. [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov). Accessed 22 November 2023.**