



FSP06 EVIDENCE FROM THE CRIME SCENE

Teacher Background Information

Crime scenes are like puzzles and forensic science provides us with clues on how to piece the puzzle back together and also provides us with some puzzle pieces as well.

Throughout the program, students will be recording information that relates to them and the techniques they are learning. This will be stored in their Personal Dossier (**FSP25**). They will also be receiving information that relates directly to the case study they are investigating. This information will be collated in their Crime Dossier (**FSP26**). By separating the two types of information, the students will have one file containing information on them and one file containing information only on the crime. They will then be able to review their Crime Dossier without confusing it with their personal information.

What is evidence?

Evidence is anything that can be used to determine if a crime has been committed.

Although, all evidence is not created equal, and some of it will require questioning or prioritising.

What is a suspect?

A suspect is an individual who may have possibly committed the crime that is being investigated - either by themselves or with others. Suspects are different from offenders or perpetrators, in these cases guilt has been presumed or has been proven.

The suspects have been decided upon for you in this crime. Their profiles are available on this website.

The steps to follow

The steps that your students will follow in the investigation of this case study are as follows:

- Introducing the case to your students
- The crime scene
- The evidence
- The suspects
- Analysing the evidence
- Fingerprints
- Shoeprints
- Handwriting
- Powder analysis
- Soil analysis
- Reviewing the evidence
- Prioritising the evidence
- Using evidence and knowledge to decide upon:
 - Offender – who committed the crime?
 - Motive – why did they do it?
 - Scenario – how did the crime unfold? How did they do it?
- Convicting evidence – what will you use to convict them?
- Presenting finding and decisions to the class (this can also be done as a newspaper report or a TV news report to make it a little different).

Once the program has been completed, you can reveal the real offender/s, motives and scenarios. The students can discuss the “real” results and evaluate how they think they went as a forensic investigator.