

Name _____

Period _____



Unit 1: Introduction to Forensics

Skills:

1. Introduction to Forensics
3. Observation

2. Branches of Forensics
4. Death by Fire Case Study

Skill 1: Introduction to Forensics:

What is Forensics?

Forensic comes from the Latin word *forensis*, meaning _____.

The _____ definition of forensic means: "to be _____ for the courts."

Thus, forensic science is any science used for the purpose of law and to investigate criminal acts.

What is a forensic scientist?

A forensic scientist is first a _____. When this scientist applies his/her knowledge to _____ juries, judges, and attorneys in criminal and civil cases, he/she is now a forensic scientist.

Forensic scientists perform _____ and _____ tests on _____ submitted by police officers to resolve legal issues.

What do forensic scientists do?

Early Forensic Science:

B.C.

Evidence of fingerprints in early paintings and rock carvings of prehistoric humans

700s

Chinese used fingerprints to establish identity of documents and clay sculpture, but without any formal classification system.

1000

Quintilian, an attorney in the Roman courts, showed that bloody palm prints were meant to frame a blind man of his mother's murder

1784:

In Lancaster, England, John Toms was convicted of _____ on the basis of _____ in a pistol matching a remaining piece in his pocket.

This was one of the first documented uses of _____ matching.

1863:

The German scientist Schönbein first discovered the ability of _____ to oxidize hydrogen peroxide making it foam. This resulted in first presumptive _____.

Modern Forensic Science:

Even though the concepts of forensics have been around for a while..... Forensics is still a _____ new area of science.

It was not until the beginning of the 1800's that _____, blood, and _____ were frequently used as evidence to convict someone of a crime.



The most advance forensic techniques, such as _____ are even more recent—perfected in just the last 30 years of scientific _____.

The CSI Effect:

The “CSI” effect is a phenomenon where the _____ of forensic based _____ has raised crime victim's and jury's _____ of forensic evidence.

Real life CSI is much different and far less easy than Netflix lets on....

Skill 2: Branches of Forensics:

To Be a Forensic Scientist, you need:

- A bachelor's degree (preferably in science)
- Some forensic sciences require advanced degrees
- Good speaking and note-taking skills
- Ability to write a science report that a non-science person can understand!

Criminalist	Wildlife Forensic Scientist	Forensic Pathologists
Forensic Anthropologists	Forensic Engineers	Forensic Psychiatrist
Document Examiner	Toxicologists + Forensic Toxicologists	Forensic Specialists

Skill 3: Observation Skill in Forensic Science

The forensic examiner must be able to

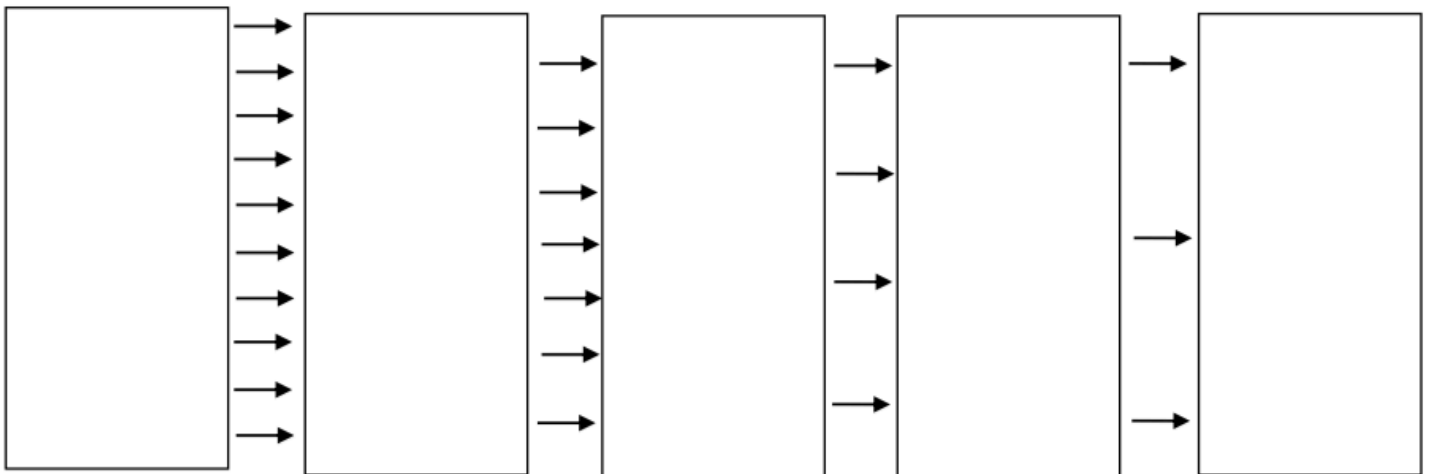
- 1) _____ - identify the evidence
- 2) _____ - record the evidence
- 3) _____ - accurately determine the significance of the evidence

Importance of Observation

When testifying what you observed, you MUST know _____ months after you made them

Inadequate information and details will allow _____

What is Observation?



Our brain can _____ out information, as well as fill in _____ in our perception

In order to make sense of what we perceive, our brains often enrich with detail what we _____, _____, _____, _____ or _____

After an event, we can believe things were part of the _____ even though they were not.

Our brains apply previous _____ to new situations.

When witnesses are interviewed, their observations are affected by:

- 1) Their _____ states
- 2) Whether they were _____ or part of a _____
- 3) Whether _____ were in the area
- 4) What type of and how much _____ was going on
- 5) _____, personal beliefs, motives and any lapse in time since the occurrence

How to be a good eyewitness:

You want to describe:

- _____ was involved?
- _____ happened?
- _____ did it take place?
- _____ did it take place?
- _____ did it happen?
- Anything else _____ or out of the ordinary

How to be a good Forensic Science Observer:

- 1) Observe _____

Start at one part of the _____ and run your eyes slowly over every space. Slowly look at every part of a piece of _____

- 2) Turn off _____

Don't pay attention to only what you _____ is important.

Make a conscious effort to pay attention to _____ the details in your surroundings.

3) Leave the final _____ of data until later

Look for _____ and make _____ -
more information obtained, the better the interpretation!

4) _____, _____

Write down and photograph as much as possible...

Tools used to enhance observations:

- _____ and _____
- _____ provide fast, low-cost, and definitive results
- _____ and _____ lights can reveal hidden evidence our eyes can't see

The Innocence Project

Founded in _____ has found that up to _____ of the wrongful convictions they discovered were due to faulty eyewitness identifications.....

Reflection:

Why are stringent observational techniques essential for a forensic investigator?