

About the Activity

Throughout their investigation, pupils are introduced to real life forensic science techniques. They work to decipher a series of clues and distinguish between conclusive and suggestive evidence. Methods of investigation include fingerprinting using a range of chemicals, chemical and pH testing, observation, microscope work and code breaking.

Activity Aims

The aim of this activity is to:

- Make careful observations and comparisons.
- Draw conclusions.
- Collect and record evidence.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the activity, participants will have:

- Identified different materials and their properties.
- Contrasted and compared materials.
- Understood that all people are unique and as such can leave traces identifying them.
- Explained results using information from their investigation.
- Identified acids and alkalis.
- Made careful and relevant observations, whilst avoiding contamination.
- Understood the importance of clues when solving crimes.

Progression Opportunities

Some participants may also:

- Independently predict and draw conclusions from results.
- Progress to identifying further tests to substantiate results.
- Evaluate evidence and understand its importance in the judicial system.

In addition, participants should also have developed in the following:

- Interpersonal Communication
- Teamwork

Associated Vocabulary:

Words relevant to safety e.g. boundaries, hazards, risk assessment, rules.

Words relating to practical investigation e.g. clue, conclusion, plan, result, solve, equipment, safety, evidence.

General vocabulary e.g. teamwork, logic, progress, knowledge, detail.