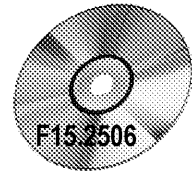


KS3 Forensic Science



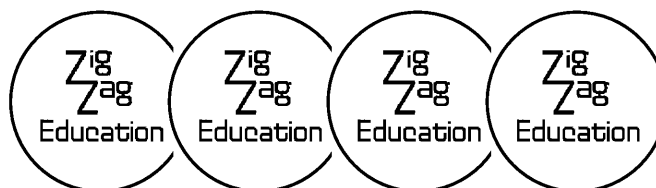
Year 9 Scheme with *How Science Works*

Update v1.4, December 2023



science@zigzageducation.co.uk
www.zigzageducation.co.uk

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Introduction

The end of year 9 has always proved to be a difficult period of time for us to fill in a productive way. As a department, we have tried beginning GCSE work, extended project work or investigations; however none of these approaches seemed to enthuse pupils.

This scheme of work was written in response to these difficulties. My aim was to introduce some of the new, and reinforce some of the existing, aspects of 'How Science Works' ideas, which are so pivotal to the new KS4 curriculum, in a contemporary and exciting context. Like it or not, Forensic Science is an area of science that has mass appeal, for pupils and adults alike, and it became clear to us very quickly that the pupils were captivated by the science of it all and the opportunity to see how it's all done.

The scheme itself can be followed step-by-step. Most of the lessons have PowerPoint and worksheet support, and all are cross referenced to the appropriate 'How Science Works' target. Additional resources, such as lesson guidance for teachers (identified by the use of the word 'Overview' in the title), handouts and online activities and are also clearly referenced.

The material has been broken down into seven main areas, each with its own PowerPoint presentation (Introduction to Forensic Science, Hair Analysis, Footprints, Anthropology, Blood Analysis, Blood Patterns and Blood Typing). These are included on the CD-ROM and provide an introduction to each topic for the students. Also on the CD-ROM is also a copy of all the pages designed for laminating as reusable resources, allowing them to easily be printed in colour as required.

Additionally, there is also a bonus section on fingerprinting, should you or the pupils wish to explore this aspect of forensic science in more depth. This is, of course, one of many opportunities to go off on a tangent, with something that interests you or the pupils, and this is probably the only curriculum time that we have to do this. We have had in outside speakers – many local police forces will come in and talk to the pupils about Scenes of Crime work, and there is a wealth of information online for other branches – such as entomology, toxicology etc. As with all schemes the teacher should assess what is appropriate for their own class, and adjust the material used accordingly.

It was my hope, when I wrote this, that the pupils would finish Year 9 with a good grounding in those HSW skills and a good degree of interest in and enthusiasm for Science. I know our pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the course; this year was our third 'run-through' and pupils, across the school, talk about it and ask when they will get to do it.

I hope you and your pupils get as much out of it as we have.

November 2007

Update v1.1, 10 June 2008 – Updated instructions for preparing and storing phenolphthalein solution.

Update v1.3, 23 April 2010 – Added alternative methods for preparing phenolphthalein solution.

Update v1.4, 1 December 2023 – Lessons 17-19 removed as link is no longer active.

Scheme of Work

Lesson Number	Learning Objectives	Activities	Resources
Who are forensic scientists and what do they do?			
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age of people involved in forensic science Types of evidence/branches of science involved 	<p>Elicit ideas from pupils about what forensic science is all about. Lead to idea of vast number of disciplines involved.</p> <p>Look at types of crimes and disputes that may be investigated.</p> <p>Provide pupils with case studies of problems and ask them to decide which disciplines would be involved and what kind of tests/branches could be carried out.</p>	<p>PowerPoint (introduction.ppt)</p> <p>Case study of Holly Chapman – literacy</p> <p>(How Forensic Science is used)</p> <p>Word search available</p> <p>(What is Forensic Science)</p> <p>Forensic science careers</p> <p>http://www.planet-forensic.com/InfoPage_37.html</p> <p>Homework – assign branches of forensic science</p> <p>Ask them to research information and research an informational presentation about the branch</p> <p>Suggest : ballistics, entomology, print examination, pathology etc.</p> <p>Poster tray, fake blood (p.26), ink pads for fingerprints etc.</p> <p>Could also allow the folders in which the fingerprints etc.</p>
2-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of evidence/branches of science involved in forensics How to select information from appropriate secondary sources How to present information in an appropriate way 	<p>In groups, pupils research and present about their branch of forensic science.</p> <p>Each group to deliver a 2 minute presentation about what their branch involves.</p>	

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Lesson Number	Learning Objectives	Teacher Ideas	Resources
What types of evidence can be collected?			
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About properties of different fibres Make accurate observations and record them Draw a conclusion from evidence provided 	<p>Ask pupils to suggest what kinds of trace evidence are left at the majority of crime scenes. Establish hair/fibres can be viewed under a microscope for unique properties to provide information about suspects/victims etc.</p> <p>Provide pupils with samples of human and other animal hair, and ask them to use the microscope to observe and identify differences between them.</p> <p>Compare different samples of human hair and look for differences in the medulla etc.</p>	<p>Samples of human and other animal hair</p> <p>Microscope, video microscope</p> <p>PowerPoint (hair.ppt)</p> <p>Pictures and info on hair can be found at: http://www.fbi.gov/july2004/research/20040701.htm</p>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe some of the properties of different fibres Make accurate observations and record them Draw a conclusion from evidence provided 	<p>Analysis of fibres, e.g. wool, cotton etc.</p> <p>Discuss with pupils what kind of information these could give. Ask pupils to analyse 4/5 known substances and create a key.</p> <p>Give them an unknown fibre and ask them to identify using their key.</p> <p>Then show them natural fibres burn, leaving a soft ash or mess, synthetic fibres tend to melt/smoke and give off a strong smell.</p>	<p>Worksheet (Analysing Fibre Evidence)</p> <p>Video clip and pictures of fibres</p> <p>Materials' CD-Rom</p>

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Lesson Number	Learning Objectives	Teacher's Ideas	Resources
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to collect evidence without disturbing it What types of footwear leave shoe tread patterns etc. 	<p>Plaster of Paris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plaster of Paris using plaster of Paris. Plaster of Paris with hairspray if casting from soil – helps retain pattern. Ask pupils to make sketches of the shoe tread, and suggest other important information they may give e.g. is the tread worn evenly, are there any logos etc.? How might this evidence be any use? <p>Pupils can also prepare rubbings of their own patterns using crayons for comparison.</p>	<p>PowerPoint (footprints.ppt)</p> <p>Digital camera for photos</p> <p>Trays of sand to print on</p>
Is there a connection between stride length and height?			
7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To plan a method with sufficient data to decide if there is a relationship To distinguish between accurate and precise measurements To appreciate the importance of repeat measurements to improve accuracy 	<p>Ask pupils if they can gain any information about the relationship between stride length and height from the footprints in the footprints left at a crime scene and discuss ways in which this could be investigated.</p> <p>Reinforce accurate measurements and precise measurements and distinguish between them – HSW</p> <p>Discuss plans, and then allow pupils to carry out practical work, presenting results graphically and establishing any patterns found.</p> <p>Discuss the validity of the conclusions as the pupils pool class results and discuss with individual conclusions.</p>	1m rulers, chalk marks

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Lesson Number	Learning Objectives	Teacher Ideas	Resources
What is anthropology and what information can be obtained from bones?			
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About the world of forensic anthropology Identify the bones of the human body About the mathematical relationship between bone measurements and height. 	<p>Pupils can measure foot length – from heel to tip of longest toe – and height to determine relationship. Results can be pooled and graphed, or just pooled within the group to work out relationship between foot length and height.</p> <p>Relationship is approx. Foot length = 15% height</p> <p>Another opportunity to reinforce accurate and precise measurements.</p>	<p>Worksheets (Foot Measurements) Is there a relationship between foot height? p.22, The Human Body</p> <p>Rulers, chalk, calculator</p> <p>PowerPoint (anthropology.ppt)</p> <p>Literacy and numeracy (Finding the Roman)</p> <p>Research opportunities</p>
How is blood evidence collected and what can it tell us			
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About the chemical composition of blood Identify the scope and importance of these tests About the importance of controls in scientific tests 	<p>Ascertain that stains found at a scene must be checked to see if they are blood. Explain the basis of catalase reaction, bubbles when peroxide is added indicates the possibility of blood.</p> <p>Provide pupils with fabric/filter paper samples stained with blood, ketchup, beet juice, etc. and ask them to carry out their tests and record findings.</p> <p>Demonstrate the catalase test and allow pupils to carry out tests.</p> <p>Discuss the value of controls – positive and negative.</p> <p>Discuss problems/limitations – e.g. not conclusive, does not indicate human blood or what type.</p>	<p>PowerPoint (bloodanalysis.ppt)</p> <p>Fabric swatches with animal blood, fresh</p> <p>Worksheets (Blood stain Analysis) The Phenolphthalein</p> <p>Extension Ask pupils to research tests e.g. precipitin, findings in the form of</p> <p>Emphasise use of positive controls.</p>

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Lesson Number	Learning Objectives	Teaching Ideas	Resources
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How blood spatter patterns can give information about the crime scene To investigate a crime scene with a spatter of blood Discuss evidence collected in form of a graph and be able to read off it 	<p>Give them information on spatter patterns. Ask them to suggest what information could be gained.</p> <p>Ask them to investigate: Effect of height on spatter Effect of surface on patterns Effect of direction on spatter</p>	<p>Fake blood – recipe</p> <p>PowerPoint (bloodpatterns.ppt)</p> <p>Worksheet for investigation and diameter. (Blood Patterns p.2)</p> <p>Graph paper.</p> <p>Homework – Ask pupils to draw their blood type for next lesson</p>
What other information can be derived from blood?			
12-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About the ABO blood grouping and its distribution in the population How to perform a cross reaction to determine blood type Discuss implications of this evidence – i.e. can it incriminate people from enquiries, but cannot conclusively prove guilt 	<p>Introduce the ABO blood group system, antigens and antibodies in a blood group. Discuss transfusion reactions.</p> <p>Introduce Rh factor.</p> <p>Explain basis for tests for them – e.g. presence of Anti-B antibodies in blood group A.</p>	<p>PowerPoint (bloodtype.ppt)</p> <p>Laminated blood group cards</p> <p>Worksheets (Blood Groups p.33)</p> <p>Typing Blood Sample</p> <p>Blood typing kit</p> <p>Interactive 'blood type' game http://nobelpize.org/landsteiner/index.html</p> <p>Blood typing kits available from science suppliers.</p>

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Lesson Number	Learning Objectives	Teacher's Id	Resources
What is DNA & how can we extract it?			
14-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About the structure of DNA Some cells in blood contain DNA and therefore genetic information About the way in which that information is extracted To extract some DNA from their own cells 	<p>Ask pupils about work in 9A and ascertain that DNA is unique to all individuals and that this is found in all nucleated cells.</p> <p>Build a DNA model and explain what DNA does – small sections are genes. Establish which cells in the blood contain nuclei and explain how this can be extracted.</p> <p>Extract DNA from onion, fruit, or cheek cells.</p> <p>Find a DNA database and possible use of this kind of information.</p>	Laminated DNA base
What can we do with DNA now that we have extracted it?			
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That DNA can be cut into sections, which can then be separated to give a pattern unique to each individual To describe how electrophoresis works To use an interactive model of genetic fingerprints to solve a 'crime' 	<p>Explain how DNA can be cut into sections using enzymes which can then be separated. Introduce term 'Genetic Fingerprint', and demo techniques or show animation from www. on Life CD-Rom.</p>	<p>IT room for interactive work http://www.biotechnology.org/popups/int_dnapro</p> <p>Text ref Biology for</p> <p>Worksheet 'bar code' (Applications of DNA)</p> <p>Extension Ask pupils to research and prove paternity. Ask results are never given</p>

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Lesson Number	Learning Objectives	Teacher's Id	Resources
How do various pieces of evidence fit together?			
17-19 ISA	1 lesson for practical work, 1 lesson for tables/charts/graphs, 1 lesson for supervised assessment		
Additional websites			
CHIN – Interactive Investigator	An interactive investigation, where pupils have to process a 'scene', collect evidence and decide its importance. Lots of information to read.		http://www.virtualinvestigator.co.uk
Quiz – Basic Forensic Science			http://www.funtrivia.com/quiz/science/forensic.html
Quiz – Basic Forensic Science 2			http://www.funtrivia.com/quiz/science/forensic2.html

Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman How Forensic Science Caught their

On August 4th 2002, Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman went missing after leaving their house in Soham. There was a nationwide hunt for the girls, which ended in the discovery of their bodies in a six foot ditch in local woodland.

During the hunt for the girls, internet posters had become suspicious of a local man who claimed to have seen the girls walk past the home he shared with his girlfriend. He searched Soham College, where Huntley worked, and found the partly buried girls were wearing – Manchester United shirts and tracksuit bottoms – in

Huntley was arrested and his home searched. He denied all involvement with the girls. It was now up to the scientists from the Forensic Science Service (FSS) to examine the evidence and determine Huntley's guilt or innocence. Most Forensic Scientists are not paid to examine the evidence collected and present their findings to police and in

Forensic analysis

Teams of scientists spent the next 14 months painstakingly examining evidence from the bin containing the remains of the girls' clothes and shoes and the wood where they were found.

Tens of thousands of fibres were recovered from Ian Huntley's car, carpets, and a bathroom mat. Each one of these fibres was examined under a microscope and some of them to fibres found on the girls' Manchester United football shirts. In addition, scientists were able to match fibres from the girls' shirts to fibres found on his clothes.

Altogether, scientists examined over 40,000 fibres, and were able to prove that the girls' clothes were found in the car. In addition to fibres, scientists also examined hairs found on the girls' clothes and reconstructed the cuts found on the girls shirts.

Ian Huntley was found guilty at the Old Bailey in December 2003 of the murders of Jessica Chapman and received two life sentences.

Questions

1. Why do you think it is important that 'Most forensic scientists are not paid to examine the evidence collected and present their findings to police and in
2. The evidence in this case was collected from 4 major sites – name them.
3. How long did it take the Forensic Science Service to process all the evidence?
4. What do you think the term 'two way transfer' means?
5. Imagine you are a reporter for a newspaper. Write an article for readers about how forensic science helped to solve it (or not). Present your article in a newspaper format with illustrations if you wish.

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What is Forensic Science all about?

X	T	W	Y	Q	J	Z	I	R	I	B	G	Y	F
C	Y	O	I	G	K	U	Y	Z	A	C	G	U	Y
R	P	T	X	H	O	G	P	L	Z	E	F	E	E
I	O	Q	J	I	O	L	L	Z	E	R	I	M	M
F	F	S	U	L	C	I	C	O	I	B	P	Y	N
V	Y	E	C	E	S	O	P	H	M	T	G	M	P
P	Q	I	I	T	Z	O	L	F	T	N	P	Q	E
C	E	Z	I	O	R	L	V	O	P	A	P	D	C
S	Z	C	W	H	T	A	H	P	G	S	P	A	N
I	S	S	T	T	A	H	O	H	N	Y	E	Q	E
D	L	N	O	T	Y	G	O	L	O	T	N	O	D
O	A	C	V	Q	P	W	E	C	A	P	T	L	I
C	I	N	S	E	C	T	S	T	W	N	O	E	V
S	B	O	J	A	I	K	C	G	N	H	M	F	E
P	T	E	O	U	O	Y	B	H	M	A	O	J	I
P	C	W	F	F	I	D	W	J	Y	A	L	Q	L
U	C	T	A	W	X	T	G	V	I	G	O	L	E
I	R	R	N	S	T	C	G	X	M	G	F	I	
F	I	N	C	E	K	P	R	I	N	T	Y	M	U
V	A	T	T	J	T	L	T	V	D	D	E	I	L

Anthropology

Ballistics

Crime

Entomology

Evidence

Fibres

Trace

Fingerprint

Odontology

Insects

Serology

Toxicology

Pathology

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Analysing Fibres (Lesson Overview)

Resources

Analysing fibre worksheet (p.12)

Science of Materials CD-ROM

Prepared, labelled slides of various natural and synthetic fibres, 1 'unknown'

Objectives

Pupils should learn:

- How to make and record accurate observations with a microscope
- About the properties of everyday fibres

Key words

synthetic, natural, nylon, fibre, polyester

Overview

Provide pupils with samples of known fibres and ask them to examine them with a microscope, and prepare an information sheet on typical fibres either on a pupil worksheet. When this is complete, provide them with an 'unknown' of a different colour of those already examined, and ask them to determine what it is. It's useful to point out that pupils should try to look at individual fibres with

Demonstrate that natural fibres burn, synthetic fibres melt and sometimes

Cotton is a flat and twisted ribbon-like fibre; it appears to be thick and rough because each fibre is a long and twisted tube.

Linen looks like a ribbon with walls thick enough that it does not collapse, unlike cotton. It has frequent small knobs. A narrow line in the centre is a mark

Silk is solid like a thread of solid glass. Its diameter is the same all the way

Wool is different from any other natural fibre; it looks broken or scaly under

Polyester has borders that aren't regular or smooth but have a granular look. The bits sticking out from the fibres cause bits to pull together after a while and snarl

Nylon is pretty similar to silk but nylon is twisted in a spiral, unlike the straight

Apparatus

Microscopes

Hand lenses

4/5 known fibres, 1 labelled 'unknown'

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Analysing Fibre Evidence

Analyse each of the fibres you have been given carefully using the microscope drawing of what you see in the boxes provided, and describe each fibre in

Fibre Name

		<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
		<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
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		<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>

What type of fibre was the unknown?.....

How do you know?

Explain the major physical and chemical differences between natural and synthetic fibres.....

.....

.....

.....

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Hair Structure (Lesson Overview)

Resources

PowerPoint (hair.ppt)

Prepared slides of hairs of various types

Objectives

Pupils should learn:

- About the basic structure of hair and how this can vary among humans
- To make careful observations using a microscope and record those details
- To compare unknown with known standards to reach a conclusion

Key words

medulla, cortex, cuticle

Overview

Pupils will probably know little about hair structure and in order to appreciate human types and different species, will need to know basic structure. Hair where the medulla is the lead, the cortex the wood, and the cuticle the pain. medulla may be fragmented or absent altogether, the main structure is the keratin, which determines its properties such as elasticity and curl. Within granules. These can be smooth and dark, which tend to be evenly distributed and less evenly distributed. The cuticle is made up of 6-10 overlapping layers. easily managed hair has smooth cuticles; when the cuticle is damaged, hair may have 'split ends'.

Human hair can be broadly divided into 3 categories – Caucasian, Asian and African. Explain basic structure. Provide pupils with hair samples to look at. Pupils observation. Pre-prepared slides are useful but pupils can also make their own hair slides adding a drop of water and a cover slip.

Provide them with some hairs from different animals. Ask them to record on worksheet.

Apparatus

Prepared slides of hair samples, human and animal

Empty slides to make up own hair slides if needed

Pipettes

Microscopes

Hand lenses

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Footprints (Lesson Overview)

Resources

PowerPoint (footprints.ppt)

Objectives

Pupils should learn:

- To make and record accurate observations
- How to make a permanent cast of footprints
- What kind of information can be derived from prints at a crime scene

Key words

impression, tread, gait

Overview

Footprints can be cast using plaster of Paris. Pupils can work in groups to make a tray of soil/sand, and then swap trays with other groups. Alternatively, prepare soft soil, and allow groups to cast those. If pre-preparing, use some shoes to make patterns. If casting outside, a cardboard or wood frame around the print where the plaster is poured in. Spraying the soil with hairspray also helps preserve.

Ask all members of group to make an accurate sketch of the print (to scale) and any information they can glean – logos, wear patterns etc. Could use digital cameras for casting.

Latent prints can also be found at a crime scene using dusting, and electrostatic lifting.

Plaster of Paris can be mixed in bowls and poured in, or mixed in large Ziploc piping bags and poured in for at least 15–20 minutes to set. Casts should be left to dry before attempting to brush or wash off any soil.

Tip – insert 2 cocktail sticks into plaster as it sets, this will help lift it out.

Apparatus

Trays of soil, shoes for prints, or ask pupils to bring their own.

Cocktail sticks, plaster of Paris.

Mixing bowls or bags, stirrers.

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Fingerprints (Lesson Overview)

Resources

Fingerprint classification handout (p.18)

Index cards (p.16)

Pupil worksheet for lifting techniques (p.17)

Objectives

Pupils should learn:

- How fingerprints are classified – loop, arch, whorl etc.
- How to use this system to classify their own and others' prints
- About various techniques to reveal latent prints

Key words

loop, arch, whorl, latent, fuming, visible, impression

Overview

Discuss unique quality of fingerprints – even identical twins do not have identical prints. Fingerprint develop in the womb between 12 and 16 weeks of life, and remain the same throughout life. Show classification system, and allow pupils to produce their own fingerprints on ink pads and index cards. Have them divide card into five squares, make a print on each square, and place underneath.

At crime scenes there are 3 types of prints – visible, impression and latent. Visible prints are made on surfaces – they are the combination of oil and sweat on surfaces. They are revealed by dusting and then lifted using tape. Allow pupils to carry this out on a white tile, microscope slide/beaker. Demonstrate superglue and fuming to reveal prints that cannot be seen by dusting.

Points to note

Tell pupils to run their hands through their hair or down the side of the neck before dusting, as this increases the oils on the fingers, and will therefore give a better print.

Fuming with iodine will make visible latent prints on rough surfaces e.g. paper. Cut a rectangle of filter paper using tweezers. They should fold it, put their initials on it, and put a single print on the inside. Fume the whole class in tanks with a bench fan.

Superglue is good for latent prints on smooth non porous surfaces. The glue reacts with the acids, fatty acids and proteins in prints. Recommend as demo only – put superglue on tin foil in a sealed jar with a little glue on some tin foil. Add a cup of hot water to develop the prints. The developing process. Leave to develop – print will appear white. Jar can be heated by a lamp, but if left to develop in a warm room will be just as well – about 1 hour.

Apparatus

Ink pads, index cards, black ink, white powder, white tiles, beakers, rollers. Rectangle of filter paper for each pupil, demonstration surface for superglue.

For fuming:

Iodine crystals, watch glass, glass trough and lid.
Superglue, tin foil squares, sealable jar.

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ingerprint Card

Carefully roll your right thumb on the ink pad and then roll your inked thumb onto the card provided to classify your prints as acc , cll , cll_{acc} , etc.

[illegible]

	Third Finger	Little

Forensic Science Bridging Unit

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Fingerprint Lifting Techniques

1. What causes a fingerprint?

.....

.....

2. What are the three types of fingerprints found at a crime scene?

.....

.....

.....

3. What does the term 'latent' mean?

.....

.....

.....

4. In the squares below, fix two prints lifted by dusting. State the surface that

	
Surface:	Surface:

3. Fix your iodine print below:

4. Why does running your hand through your hair help give a better print?

.....

.....

.....

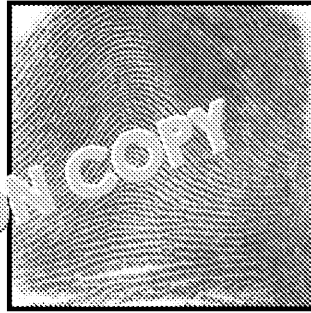
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Fingerprint Classification

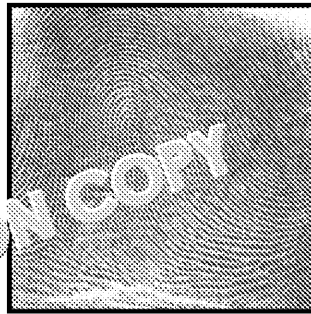
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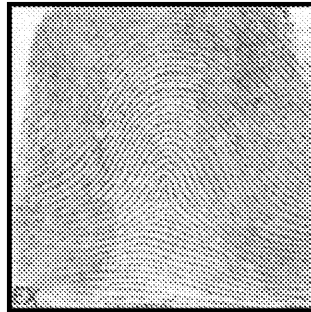
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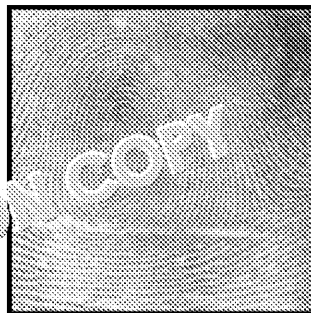
Left loop



Tented arch



Whorl



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Forensic Anthropology (Lesson Overview)

Resources

PowerPoint (**anthropology.ppt**)

Skeleton Worksheet (**p.25**)

Worksheet – Finding the Romanovs (**pp.23-24**)

Worksheet – Determining height from footprints (**pp.21-22**)

Objectives

Pupils should learn:

- About the names of the major bones in the body
- How a mathematical formula can be used to deduce height from bone length
- About other information that anthropologists can collect from bones

Key words

tibia, fibula, femur, humerus, radius

Overview

Forensic anthropology is the study of skeletal and other human remains to identify and determine the circumstances involved in someone's death. Forensic anthropologists determine the age, sex, ancestry, stature, and unique features of a skeleton. At times, they provide information to descendants to provide information about the deceased.

Osteology (the study of bones) is very important when forensic scientists work at a crime scene. When forensic scientists arrive at a crime scene area, they are looking for decomposed remains, along with many other types of physical evidence.

Forensic investigators must be able to distinguish human bone from animal bones. Because humans are bipedal (walk on two feet), our bones are different. The valgus knee and the femur do not line up exactly with the tibia, which helps with gravity. Humans have a large calcaneus (heel bone) and a big toe bone, as well as a big toe bone when walking.

The human body has 206 bones. The average male skeleton weighs about 13 kilograms and the average female skeleton weighs about 3.5 kilograms (about 7.7 pounds).

Investigators can often determine the following basic identifying factors from a skeleton:

- **Gender:** Many gender differences are visible when the skull is examined. Males have prominent foreheads, while females have straighter foreheads. Males have extremely prominent brow ridges, while females have slight ridges, with sharp orbital foramina. Males have areas of attachment visible on the cheek bones and large canines. Females have smaller canines. The jaw of males is squarer. The male pelvis is narrower than that of the female.
- **Age:** Age is estimated from *calcifications* (stages at which the bones change). Evidence of bone disease such as arthritis, and the shape of the pelvis.
- **Previous trauma:** Evidence of a once broken or fractured bone indicates a victim's identity through comparisons with medical records.

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- **Height:** If the skeleton is incomplete, forensic scientists are able to approximate an individual by measuring the length of the foot. The length of a person's foot is approximately 15% of his or her height.

$$15/100 = \text{Length of Foot} / x (\text{person's height})$$

Formulas applied to the length of the femur, tibia or ulna will also apply. The ratio of body parts is slightly different in growing children.

Use skeleton worksheet to label some of major bones in the body.

Ask what information bones may yield. Investigate can bone length tell us anything about a person's height? In groups, measure from heel of left foot to tip of longest toe. Record measurement. Use ratio to work out the heights of other 'victims'.

Extension

Use literacy and numeracy activity on Romanov family to show mathematical application of bone lengths and height. Complete research for homework.

Alternative

Cut Styrofoam plates into 6 equal pieces and give two to each pupil. Cut off one corner and ask pupils to stack the two remaining pieces and put them in their mouths. This will give teeth impressions, label top and bottom. Could ask some pupils to mix up samples and ask if groups can identify who they came from.

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Foot Measurements and Shoe S

Use the chart below to convert foot measurements to

Foot in centimetres	UK Women's Size	UK Men's
22.07	3.5	-
22.38	4	-
22.5	4.5	-
23.34	5	-
23.65	5.5	5
24.13	6	5.5
24.61	6.5	6
24.92	7	6.5
25.4	7.5	7
25.88	8	7.5
26.19	8.5	8
26.67	9	8.5
27.15	9.5	9
27.46	10	9.5
27.94	10.5	10
28.42	11	10.5
28.73	11.5	11
29.2	12	11.5
29.69	-	12
30.48	-	13
31.27	-	14
32.23	-	15
33.02	-	16

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Is there a relationship between foot size and height?

1. To measure foot size – place the heel of the left foot against a wall. Measure the distance (from where heel touches wall to tip of toe), in centimetres. Record your measurement.
2. Measure the height of each individual in centimetres. Record measurement in your data table.
3. Divide the length of the foot by the height of each individual, and multiply by 100 to get a percentage.

Relationship between foot length and height		
Name	Foot length (cm)	Height (cm)

Questions

1. Is there a relationship between foot length and height? Describe it.
2. Use your relationship to predict the height of:
 - a. A victim with a foot length of 27.5cm
 - b. A suspect who left a footprint measuring 35.2cm
3. What other information can be gathered from bones?

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Finding the Romanovs

It is believed that on the night of July 16, 1918, Czar Nicholas II, his wife Czarina Alexandra, their four daughters, Olga, Tatyana, Maria, and Anastasia, and their only son Alexei, were taken into the cellar of the house where they were being held prisoner. They were told they were going to have their picture taken. Also taken were three of their servants, Anna Demidova, Kharitonov, and footman Trupp, and the family doctor Dr. Botkin. They were all shot by a Bolshevik firing squad.

Not all of the family died immediately. The girls had sewn diamonds into their clothing to carry them undetected, and some of the bullets bounced off them. After the shooting, they stabbed those who were still alive and placed the bodies onto a truck with dynamite and sent them down a mine shaft. However, the truck broke down during the trip to the mine. The bodies were reportedly stripped of their clothing and burned with gasoline. To make the process harder, they doused the bodies with sulphuric acid. The remains were then buried in a shallow pit.

A report found in 1989 gave clues to the location of the grave, and, in 1991, they thought might be the burial site. The Russian government authorized an excavation coordinated by the Chief Forensic Medical Examiner of the Russian Federation.

The grave consisted of a shallow pit (less than a metre deep), and contained many bones. Many of the bones were badly damaged. All the skeletal remains showed evidence of being killed subsequent to it. For instance, some skulls had bullet entry points. Areas of the bones which made facial identification difficult.

Scientists in England worked with the Russian scientists to examine the bones.

The location of the grave, the condition of the bones, the finding of gold and diamonds (only available to the rich), the relationships of the DNA samples from the bones to the descendants of the Imperial family, and other evidence strengthen the belief that the Romanovs had been found.

It is believed that 11 individuals were killed by the Bolsheviks (the Romanovs and their doctor).

Analyse the evidence and answer the questions on the following page, to help identify the bodies buried in the grave.

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Formulas for Determining Height from Bone Length (measured in centimeters)

- Femur $2.38 \times (\text{femur length}) + 61.41 = \text{height}$
- Humerus $3.08 \times (\text{humerus length}) + 70.45 = \text{height}$
- Radius $3.78 \times (\text{radius length}) + 79.01 = \text{height}$

Determining height from bone length

Skeleton	Tandem repeats	Sex (M/F)	Femur length (cm)	Humerus length (cm)	Radius length (cm)	Height (cm)
1	9, 10	F	44.79	31.5		
2	9, 10	M	37.64	26.15		
3 (child)	8, 10	F	38.9	27.1		
4	7, 10	M	42.5	30.0		
5 (child)	7, 8	F	38.9	27.21	20.34	
6 (child)	8, 10	F	37.6	26.2	23.0	
7	8, 8	F	39.4	27.4		
8	6, 9	M	38.32	26.68		
9	6, 6	M	37.32	25.92		

Tandem repeats

Normal genomes contain many extremely variable regions. We can often tell the relationship between individuals in a family by comparing the number of copies of a gene. For every chromosome we have, we get one copy of that chromosome from our mother and one from our father. Therefore, we expect that, given any two specific variable regions on the same chromosome, the number of repeats will be the same as our father and one more or one less than our mother.

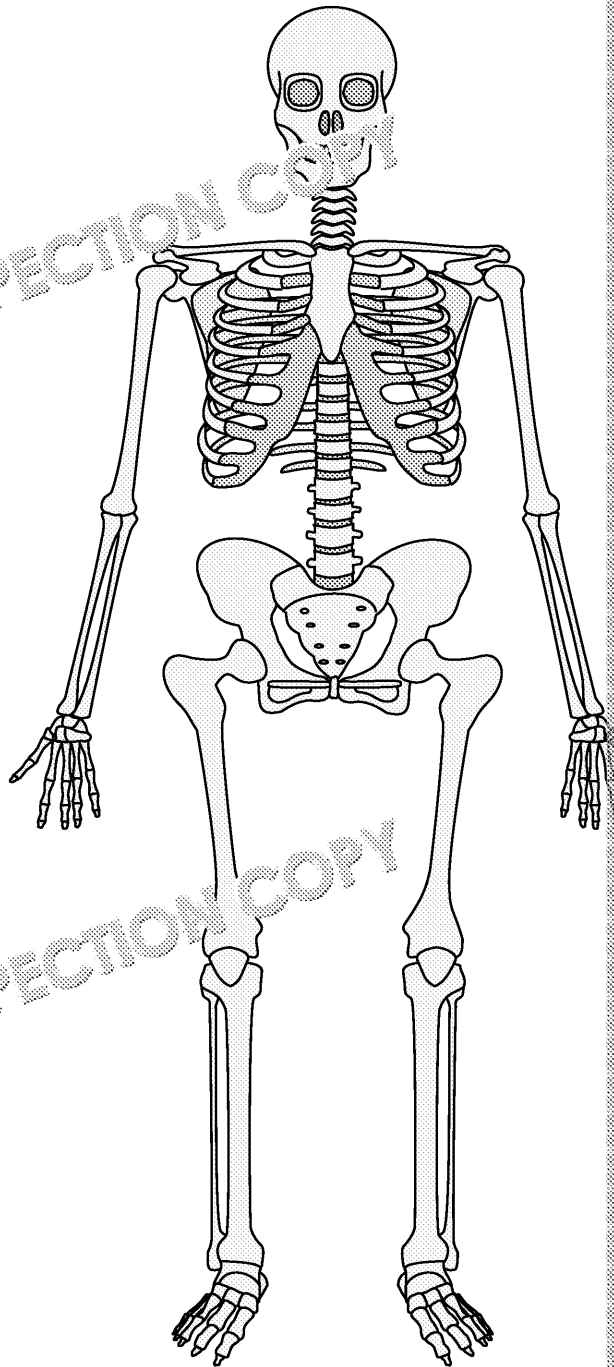
Questions

1. Use the genomic evidence (tandem repeats) to determine the possible parents of the children of the Czar and Czarina).
2. Which individuals could not possibly be parents of the children? Explain.
3. Anastasia was about 164 cm (5' 4 3/4") tall. Could her skeleton be one of the skeletons? Explain.
4. Which skeleton do you think is that of the Czar? The Czarina? Explain.
5. Research to find out more information on the Romanov family. In your own words, where were they killed, and who scientists think the missing bodies were.

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The Human Skeleton



Label: Tibia, fibula, radius, ulna, humerus, femur, patella (knee)

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Blood Patterns (Lesson Overview)

Resources

PowerPoint (**bloodpatterns.ppt**)

Worksheet to support investigation (p.27)

Objectives

Pupils should learn:

- Blood patterns can give a crime officer information about weapon
- How to carry out an investigation to collect sufficient precise and reliable
- To produce a graph of results and use it to provide information on a crime scene

Key words

precise, reliable, passive, transfer, projected

Suggestions

Show pupils pictures of blood patterns and discuss types of information they can give.
Elicit main factors – height blood drops from, direction, force of blows etc

Show PowerPoint to show 3 main categories of bloodstain.

Demonstrate droplets from above always give uniform spot which can be measured.
Discuss plan to investigate – does the diameter of the spot tell us anything?

Prepare an 'unknown' spot before lesson for them to read off their unknown.

Suggest heights of 1m, 1.5m, 2m, 2.5m and 3m. Discuss variables to be measured.
If you drop on graph paper they may be easier to measure.

This is an opportunity to discuss precise measurement.

Which units will they use to measure in – cm or mm?

Discuss reliability also – the value of repeated readings and similarity.

Apparatus

100 ml beaker for 'blood'

Plastic pipettes

Metre rulers

30 cm rulers

Fake blood (recipe opposite)

graph paper, A3 and A4

Fake blood recipe:

175 g cornflour

100ml water

175 ml golden syrup

4 teaspoons red food colouring

These are approximate – you may want to thin it a little more or add more

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Blood Patterns

Bloodstains at a crime scene can yield a lot of information about the crime perpetrators. Bloodstains would always be photographed to keep a permanent record. Bloodstains being tested, typed and analysed for DNA.

List the three main categories of blood patterns:

-
-
-

Your task

In groups carry out an investigation to see if the height of a drop of blood

Height (m)	Size of drop (mm)	Size of drop(mm)
0.5		
1.0		
1.5		
2.0		
2.5		
3.0		

Questions

1. Name one variable that you kept the same during your investigation.
2. How did you make your results precise?
3. Are your results reliable?
4. How do you know?
5. Draw a graph of your results.
6. A droplet measures 18mm. What height would it have dropped from?
7. What droplet size would be produced from a height of 25 cm?

Diameter (mm)

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Blood Stain Analysis (Lesson Overview: 1)

Resources

PowerPoint (**bloodanalysis.ppt**)

Blood Stain Analysis – Worksheets 1 & 2 (**pp.30-31**)

Objectives

Pupils should learn:

- About the chemical basis of 2 simple tests for blood presence
- To carry out these tests and make conclusions
- To evaluate the scope and reliability of the test
- About the purpose of controls in experiments

Key words

catalase, hydrogen peroxide, phenolphthalein, luminescence, haemoglobin

Overview

Catalase speeds up the breakdown of hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen. Hydrogen peroxide is added to anything containing catalase. Many plant cells contain catalase. Catalase is not used at crime scenes for this reason.

Provide pupils with samples of red/brown substances on fabric swatches. Add hydrogen peroxide on the whole stain? Why not – contamination etc. Ask them to make a conclusion before carrying out the tests.

Swatches can be placed on the tiles. Add a few drops of the phenolphthalein solution. A bright pink colour indicates a positive result.

The phenolphthalein test is more commonly used at crime scenes and replaced benzidine when benzidine was shown to be a carcinogen.

The presence of haemoglobin produces a deep pink colour in the solution. The test is non-destructive.

Introduce the idea of a 'control'. Test the fabric on its own (negative control) before having pupils testing unknowns.

Discuss limitations

False positives with catalase – plant materials etc.

Any animal blood will react with either, so it would not prove presence of blood. No indication of type etc.

Apparatus – Hydrogen Peroxide Test

Hydrogen peroxide dropper bottles or pipettes

White tiles

Fabric swatches with stains on – labelled A, B & C

Gloves

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Apparatus – Phenolphthalein Test

Phenolphthalein working solution in brown dropper bottles

Hydrogen peroxide

White tiles

Fabric swatches with various stains

Fabric without stains as control

Dropper bottles or pipettes

Positive and negative control

Unknowns, one of which is blood

Phenolphthalein stock solution:

2 g phenolphthalein

20g potassium hydroxide

100 ml water

1. Mix thoroughly and then add 20g powdered zinc
2. Leaving the zinc powder to completely settle to the bottom, make sure it is at the bottom of the litre beaker.
3. After 24-48 hours, the solution should be colourless.
4. Decant the clear solution carefully into an amber tinted bottle. Do not allow the bottle to move around whilst this is done.
5. If the solution turns pink again, allow the zinc powder to settle until the solution is clear.
6. Storage must be in a brown bottle.

Working solution:

20 ml stock solution in

80 ml ethanol

Stains:

Fabric with

Red paint

Beet juice

Barbecue sauce

Ketchup

Fresh tomato

Blood – liver in blender

Spaghetti sauce

Extension

Pupils could research other blood tests.

Precipitin – uses the reaction to human antibodies to determine if blood is human.

Luminol – glows when in contact with blood, even at very dilute concentrations.

Luminol can detect the presence of blood that the eye can no longer see.

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Alternative methods for making the Phenolphthalein solution:

1. Mix the following reagents in a 250 cm³ round-bottomed flask:

- Phenolphthalein 2.0 g
- Potassium Hydroxide 20.0g
- Deionised Water 100 cm³
- Zinc Dust 20.0 g
- A few anti-bumping granules

Boil under reflux for 2 hours until the solution has lost its pink colour containing zinc. Keep in the reduced form. Stored in a fridge, in months.

2. The preparation can be scaled-up and the low-concentration solution will step:

- Phenolphthalein 4 g
- Sodium Hydroxide pellets 40 g
- Zinc dust 20 g
- Deionised water 1000 cm³
- Ethanol to bring the total volume up to 1200 cm³

Reflux in a 5000 cm³ round-bottomed flask. After reflux, restore to 1200 cm³.

3. Another method uses similar proportions but involves refluxing. In a 1 dm³ flask:

- Phenolphthalein 1 g
- Sodium Hydroxide pellets 10 g
- Zinc dust 5 g
- Deionised water 250 cm³

Using a warming hot plate, mix and heat until the solution loses its pink colour. The process may take 2 to 3 hours.

Decant the liquid into a 500 cm³ measuring cylinder. Add ethanol to make 500 cm³.

Add a small amount of zinc powder to a brown bottle, and pour the phenolphthalein solution into this bottle. Label, date, and store the bottle in a refrigerator.

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Blood Stain Analysis

Investigators often find blood stains at the scene of a crime. They also often find other substances – e.g. paint. All stains need to be tested to see if they are blood.

The Catalase Test

Catalase is an enzyme found inside most living cells, including plant cells. It breaks down hydrogen peroxide, which can be toxic if allowed to accumulate.

Hydrogen peroxide → Water + Oxygen

If hydrogen peroxide is added to anything containing catalase, bubbles of oxygen are seen, the substance is said to test positive for catalase.

Which of the following do you think will test positive? Make a prediction. Then carry out the tests.

N.B. Although you will not be using real human blood, gloves should be worn.

Substance	Prediction – Positive or negative?	Explain why you think this

Questions

- Which of your stains gave a positive result?
- What are the limitations of this test?

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The Phenolphthalein Test

Phenolphthalein is a clear, colourless liquid, but it will react with haemoglobin in the presence of hydrogen peroxide to produce a deep pink colour.

It is commonly used at crime scenes to test stains for the presence of blood and is also known as the 'Kastle-Meyer' test.

Method

- Test your sample by adding a few drops of the phenolphthalein solution.
- Then add one or two drops of hydrogen peroxide.
- Record your observations in the table below.

Sample	Result with phenolphthalein
Filter paper (negative control)	
Known blood sample (positive control)	
Unknown (1)	
Unknown (2)	
Unknown (3)	

Questions

1. What does a negative result mean?
2. What was the purpose of the negative control?
3. What was the purpose of the positive control?
4. Can you think of any limitations of this test?

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Blood Typing (Lesson Overview: 2 Lessons)

Resources

PowerPoint available ([bloodtype.ppt](#))

Blood Groups – write on worksheet (p.33)

Typing blood samples – write on worksheet (p.34)

Blood Typing handout – laminated (p.35)

Red blood cells with different antigens, and accompanying antibodies – laminated

<http://nobelprize.org/medicine/educational/landsteiner/index.html>

Objective

Students should learn:

- The basis for the division of blood groups
- Blood can be further subdivided into RH positive or negative
- Antibodies present in the plasma can cause a reaction with mismatched transfusion
- This reaction is utilised to type blood in many situations, including blood transfusion

Key words

antigens, antibodies, Rhesus, agglutination, transfusion

Overview

1st lesson – Introduce the 4 blood groups, distribution.

Use models on the board to show proteins on membrane and antibodies in plasma.

Explain antigen/antibody reaction causes clotting, relate back to work in 1st lesson.

Ask why A people would not produce anti-A antibodies (own blood would clot).

Invite pupils to 'donate' blood into A person. Allow them to move the blood around. Explain why A blood would form and cause clotting.

Explain in Rh factor – fatal blood clots, organ rejection etc.

Discuss importance of matching blood for transfusions.

Introduce Rh factor as a second molecule – either present or not. Ask – would Rh positive people make antibodies to Rh protein?

Play interactive blood typing game – asks pupils to type a patient's blood and to give them a transfusion. Find at: <http://nobelprize.org/medicine/educational/landsteiner/index.html>

2nd lesson – Recap incompatibility. Explain how this reaction can be used to type blood.

The Anti A and Anti B antibody are manufactured and added to the sample. If both or neither sample tells us blood group.

Clumping with Anti Rh shows positive, no clumping negative.

Points to Note

- Blood type is the combination of genetic and Rh factor.

Apparatus

Kits for blood typing – pupils should work in pairs.

Extension/Other ideas

Discuss the transmission of HIV, Hepatitis in blood supply – stress safety of blood.

Research efforts to remove surface proteins to allow universal donation.

Design a leaflet to encourage people to donate blood.

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Blood Groups

The most common way to type blood is the ABO system. There are four main blood groups: A, B, AB and O. In the UK the most common are A and B.

They are grouped because of tiny proteins on the membrane of the red blood cells. These are called antigens. The two main types of protein – A and B.

Antibodies are special proteins in the plasma which help protect us from foreign substances. There are two types of blood group antigens – Anti-A and Anti-B.

E.g. A person with blood group Type A has A proteins on their red blood cells and Anti-B antibodies in their plasma.

Why do you think they don't carry Anti-A antibodies?

Complete the table below:

Blood Group	Proteins on membrane	Antibodies in plasma
A	A proteins	
B		
AB		
O		

Transfusions

Why is it essential to match blood groups when giving a transfusion? What happens if you get the transfusion wrong? Antibodies that attack the donor cells?

Blood group	Can give blood to	Can receive blood from
A		
B		
AB		
O		

Questions

- If you managed a blood bank, which blood type would you want to collect? (This blood type can be given to the most people?)
- If you were in an accident and needed a large blood transfusion, which blood type would you want to have?

The Rhesus factor

The Rhesus factor is another type of protein found on the membrane. If it is present, the blood is Rh positive. If it is absent, the blood is Rh negative.

Rh group	Protein on membrane	Antibodies in plasma
Rh positive	Yes – Rh present	
Rh negative		

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Typing Blood Samples

Forensic scientists use the reaction between antibodies and blood proteins found at crime scenes.

Samples are tested with 3 antibodies – Anti-A, Anti-B and Anti-Rh.

If the protein that the antibody attacks is present, the blood will clump together.

Complete the table – the first one is done for you. The blood collected reacts with Anti-A and Anti-B, therefore must have both A and B antigens, therefore group AB. There is no reaction with the Rhesus antibody, therefore must be Rhesus negative.

Reacts with Anti-A Antibody	Reacts with Anti-B antibody	Reacts with Anti Rh antibody
No	No	No
No	No	Yes
Yes	No	No
Yes	No	Yes
No	Yes	No
No	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	No
Yes	Yes	Yes

Questions

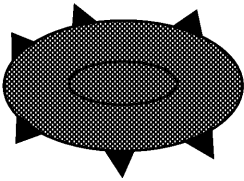
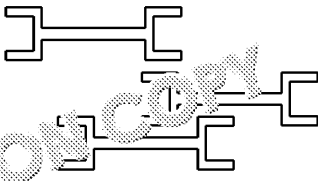
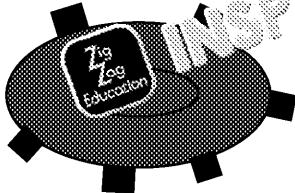
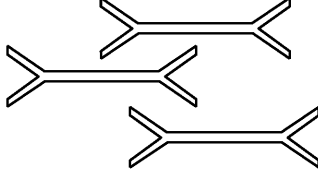
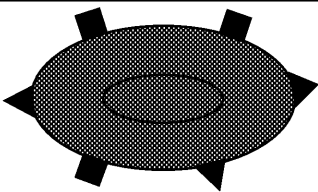
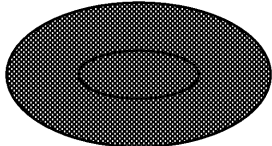
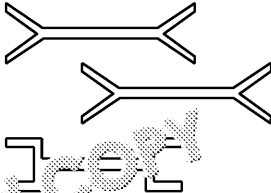
1. What other information would you need in order for blood found at the crime scene to be identified as belonging to a specific person?
2. What are the limitations of this kind of evidence? Can it prove conclusively that a person is guilty or innocent as you can.

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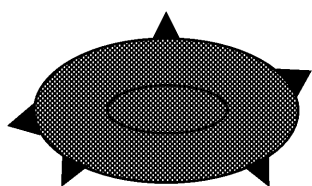


Blood Typing

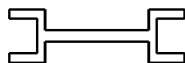
Antigens on red blood cells	Antibodies in plasma	
		Blood Type B If you have Type B blood, you have B antigens on your red blood cells and Anti-B antibodies in your plasma.
		Blood Type A If you have Type A blood, you have A antigens on your red blood cells and Anti-A antibodies in your plasma.
	NONE	Blood Type AB If you have Type AB blood, you have both A and B antigens on your red blood cells and no antibodies in your plasma.
		Blood Type O If you have Type O blood, you have no antigens on your red blood cells and both Anti-A and Anti-B antibodies in your plasma.

Blood Type Functions

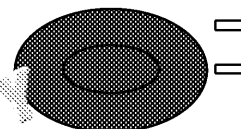
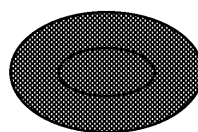
If you are given a blood transfusion that does not match your blood type, it will react with the foreign blood antigens. For example, if a person with Type A blood is given a transfusion of Type B blood, the person's Anti-B antibodies will react with the B antigens on the donated blood. This causes the donated cells to clump together and cause a blood clot.



Group A person



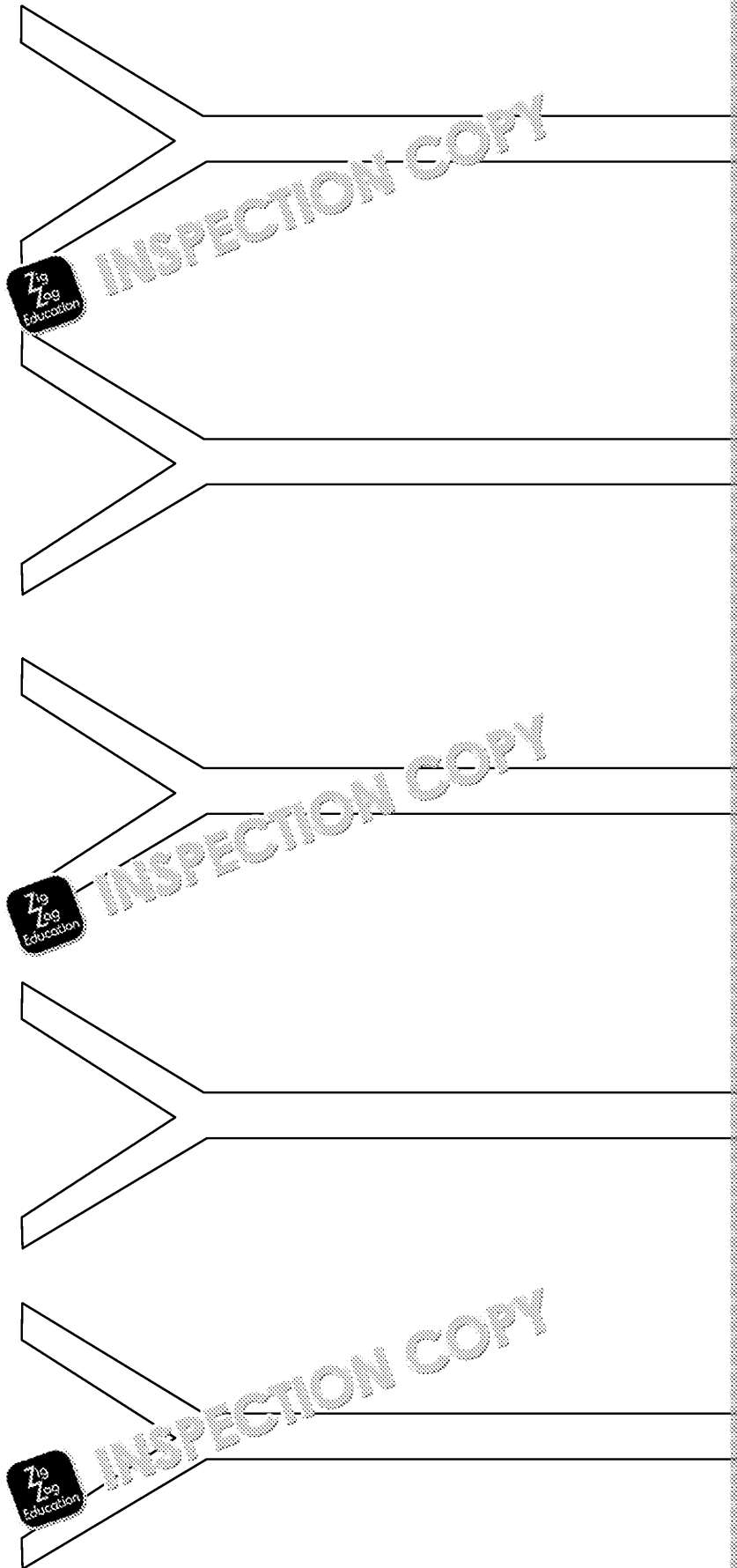
Anti B antibodies



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Anti-A Antibodies



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Anti-B Antibodies

Diagram illustrating the structure of Anti-B Antibodies, showing three Y-shaped antibody molecules. Each molecule consists of two heavy chains (outer lines) and two light chains (inner lines). The diagram is divided into three horizontal sections, each containing one antibody molecule. The top and middle sections are labeled "INSPECTION COPY".

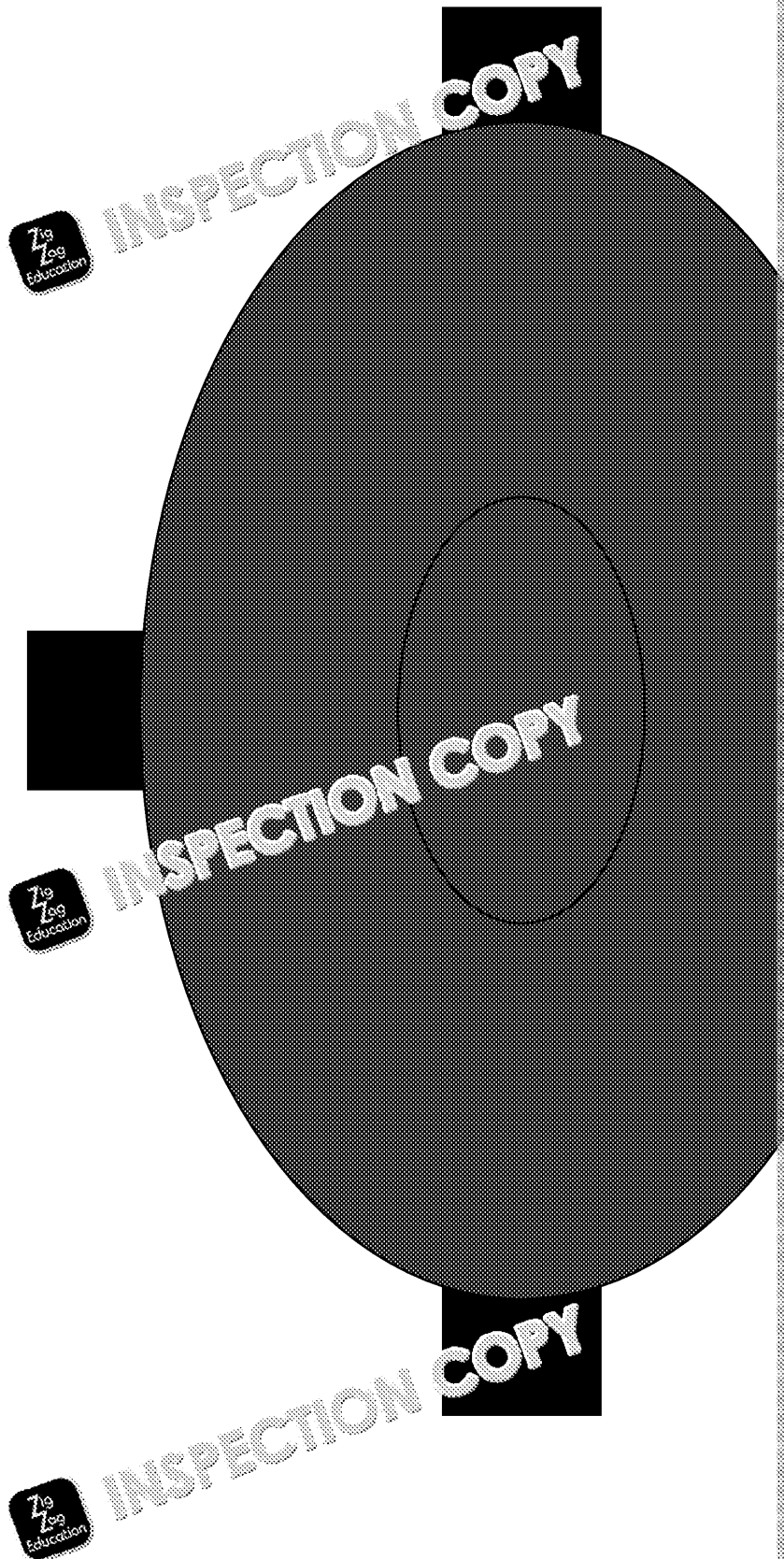
Diagram illustrating the structure of Anti-B Antibodies, showing three Y-shaped antibody molecules. Each molecule consists of two heavy chains (outer lines) and two light chains (inner lines). The diagram is divided into three horizontal sections, each containing one antibody molecule. The top and middle sections are labeled "INSPECTION COPY".

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Type B Blood Cells

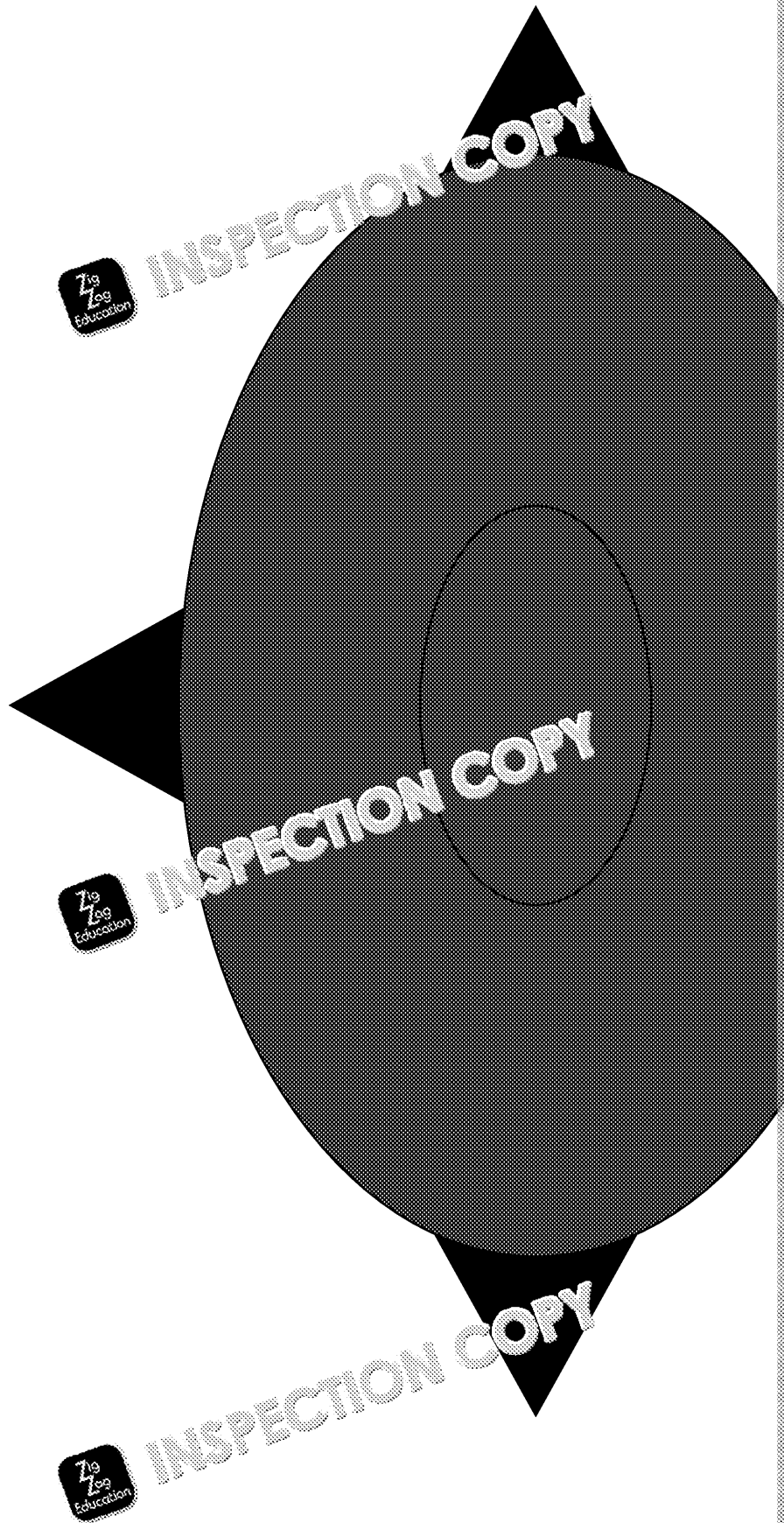


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Type A Blood cells

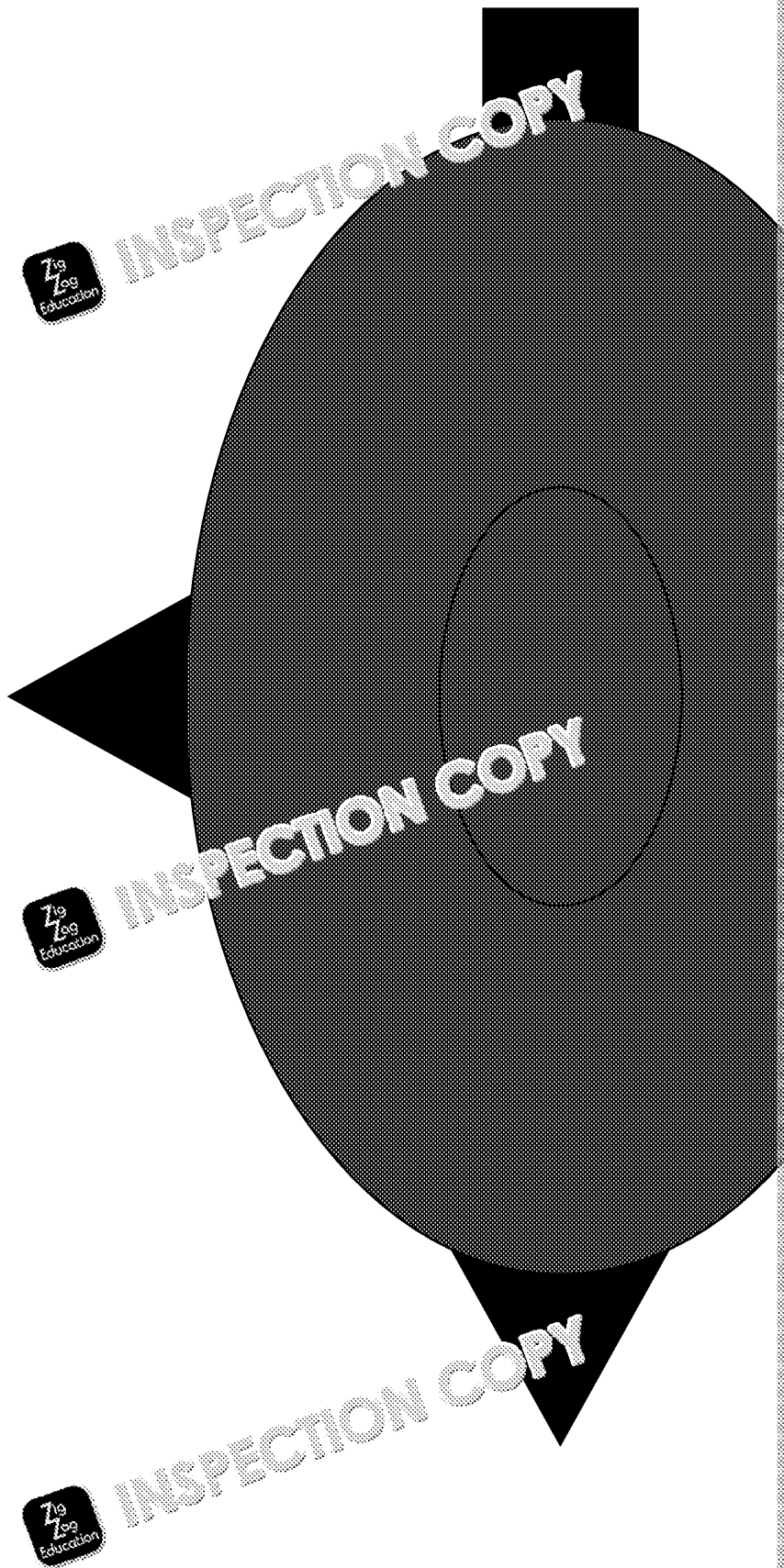


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Type AB Blood cells

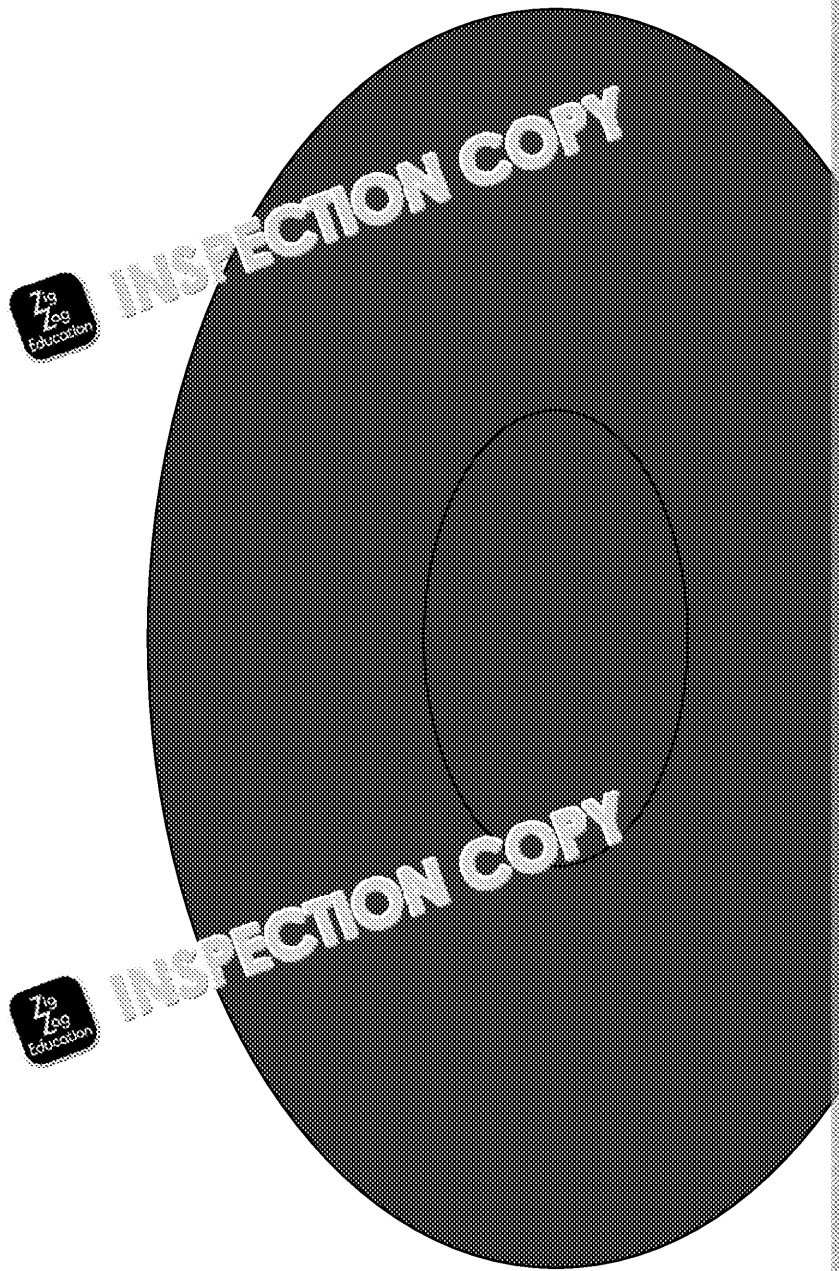


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Type O Blood Cells



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DNA Structure & Function (Lesson Overview)

Resources

Protocol for extraction from onion/kiwi if preferred

Stained cheek cell slides

DNA model

Laminated DNA bases, will need treasury tags for linking (pp.45-46)

Objectives

Students should learn:

- About the structure and function of DNA
- How genes code for certain features
- Some blood cells contain nuclei and within that is DNA
- How DNA can be extracted from cells

Key words

precipitation, genes, membrane, nucleus

Overview

1st Lesson – Print out base pair models onto coloured paper – suggest two different colours for each base. Copy onto card or laminate. Punch holes in them.

Remind pupils of structure of blood, and that some cells contain nuclei. Remind them what can be found in the nucleus.

Show DNA model. Build a DNA model using the laminated bases A, G, T, C. Give each pupil a base and ask them to find a suitable partner their base will fit with. Elicit the base pairing rules – A with T, C with G.

Split room in half and get each half to link their base pairs to form the 'ladder' using treasury tags. Stick both up. Show how the order of the pairs in one half is the order in the other half and perhaps different in length – this is essential for the code.

Small sections of DNA are called genes. Genes can be likened to one line in a recipe. Each recipe is unique, as there are over 30,000 instructions.

Cartoon face genes – pupils build a cartoon face using kits available, then find the sequence for each characteristic. Pupils can swap recipe sheets and build each other's face.

2nd Lesson – Show cheek cell slide on video microscope. Pupils may also be interested in swabbing for DNA samples from TV.

Explain that DNA can be extracted from any nucleated cell, and as DNA is unique it is extremely useful evidence in proving guilt/innocence. Elicit other areas of forensic science where DNA is used in establishing identity.

Explain protocol.

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Apparatus Needed

Per pupil – boiling tube with bung, plastic cup, 10 ml measuring cylinder, test-tube, tray of ethanol bottles.

Per table – 50 ml salt solution, 25 ml soap solution, cold ethanol (from free disinfectant to dispose of cups and tubes).

Salt solution:

2 teaspoons salt in 1 litre of water

Soap solution

50 ml cheap washing up liquid
150 ml water

Each pupil needs 5 ml soap solution and 10 ml salt solution. It is worthwhile DNA out using either a glass rod or pipette and re-suspending it in a little

Health & Safety

Pupils handle their own cups and tubes only. Pupils must rinse out all glass with disinfectant before the end of the lesson and dispose of their own pipettes

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See Your DNA

DNA contains the instructions for making you: How you look, what blood tendency to get some diseases.

It is found inside the nucleus in just about every single cell of your body.

In this activity, you'll break open the cell membrane and the membrane surrounding the nucleus so you can see your very own DNA.

Method

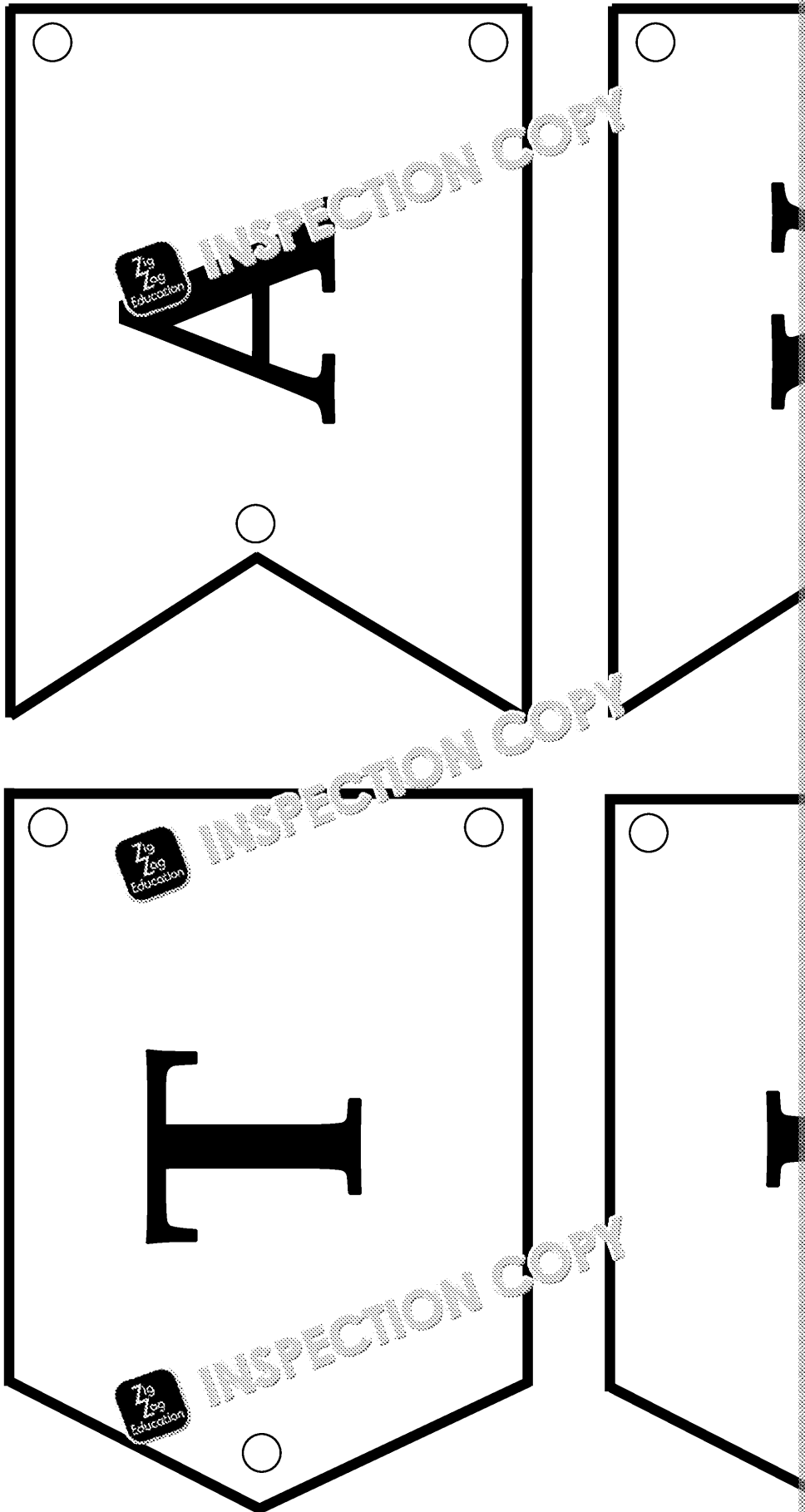
1. Swill 10ml salt water in your mouth for 30 seconds.
2. Spit the salt solution back into your cup. Transfer this into a boiling tube with detergent.
3. Put a bung in the tube and *gently* rock it back and forth for 2–3 minutes.
4. Open and slightly tilt the tube and pour 5 ml of the chilled ethanol down the side so it forms a layer on the top of your soapy solution.
5. Allow tube to stand for 1 minute. DNA will begin to precipitate at the boundary between the ethanol and the soap solution. It will look like strands of cotton wool.
6. Place a thin acrylic or glass rod into the tube.
7. Stir using the rod in one direction to wind the DNA strands onto the rod. Be careful of the mixing of the ethanol and soapy layers. If you mixed too vigorously, the DNA will be too short to wind up, and they may form clumps instead. You can try to stir more gently.
8. After you have wrapped as much DNA onto the rod as you can, remove the rod and pour the DNA into a small tube containing the rest of the 95 percent ethanol. You can see the DNA in this solution.

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DNA Base Shapes



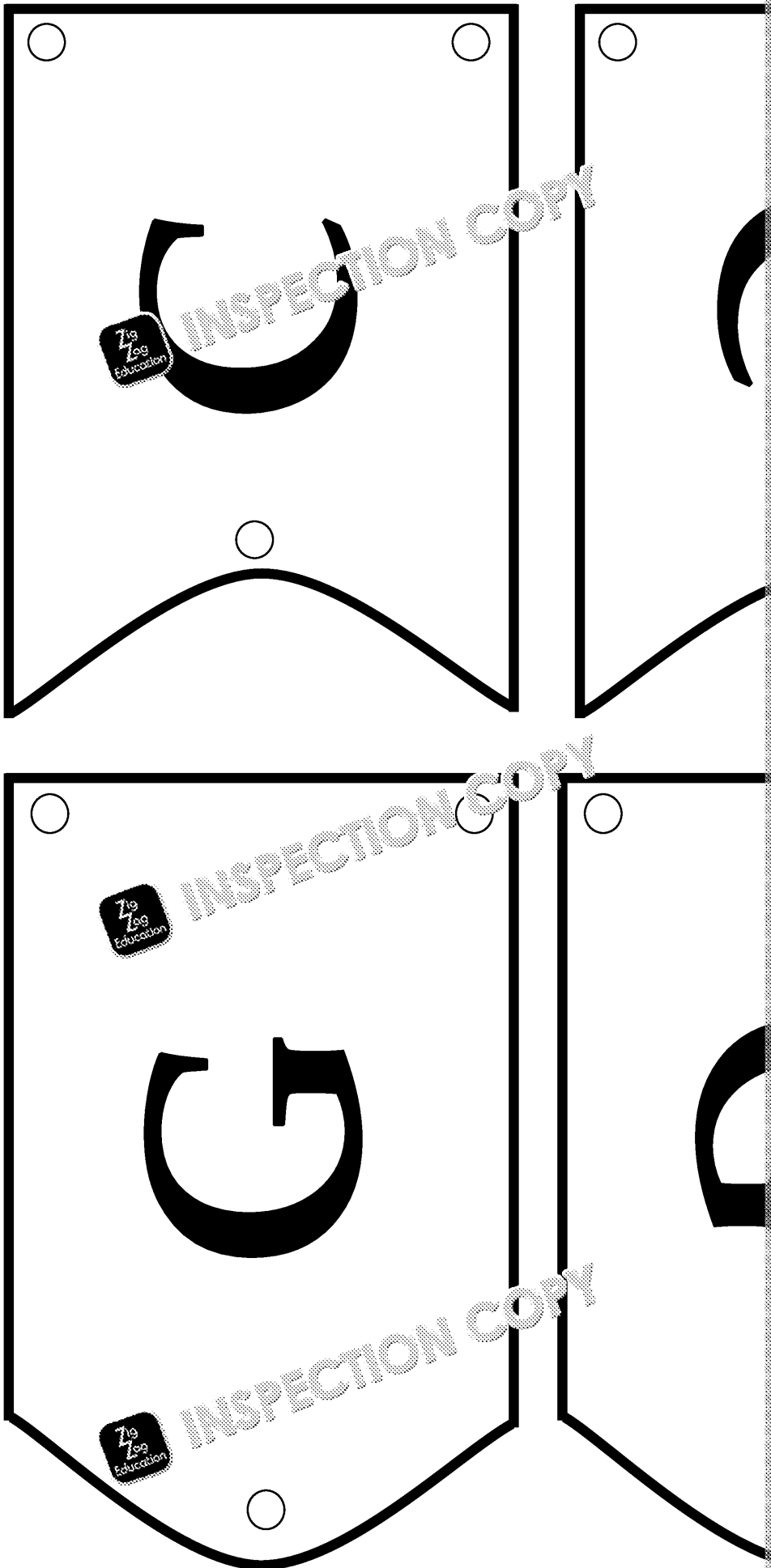
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DNA Fingerprinting (Lesson Overview)

Resources

Gel electrophoresis worksheet ([download from dnai.org](http://www.dnai.org))

Paternity testing worksheet with questions (p.48)

Biology for You, p.292, pupil handout

Animation of DNA fingerprinting on 'Windows 95' CD-ROM

If using pupil worksheet, pupils need access to www.dnai.org

IT also needed for interactive crime solving

Animation of DNA fingerprinting at either <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/biotech/dna.html> or http://www.biotechnologyonline.gov.au/popups/int_dnaprofiling.cfm

Objectives

Pupils should learn:

- That DNA can be cut, using enzymes, into fragments which are unique
- These fragments can then be separated using electrophoresis giving a 'fingerprint'
- How to interpret DNA evidence

Key words

electrophoresis, fragments, restriction enzymes, agarose

Overview

Although humans share a lot of the same DNA, there are certain sites which occur at a high frequency. Once DNA is extracted, it can be 'chopped up' using restriction enzymes into fragments of varying length. These fragments can then be separated on the basis of size using electrophoresis on an agarose gel. Radioactive probes are used to identify specific fragments. An X-Ray film is developed. The result is a pattern of bands which is unique to each individual.

Demonstrate gel electrophoresis or show animation from CD-Rom.

IT access to www.dnai.org shows principles of DNA fingerprinting, accessible for all abilities. If difficult, would need adapting for lower ability.

Then IT access to www.biotechnologyonline.gov.au/popups/int_dnaprofiling.cfm

There are two cases to solve.

If unsuccessful go to homepage, click on resources, human uses and then DNA fingerprinting. Scroll down until 'Try solving a crime using DNA profiling – interactive'.

Extension/Other ideas

Debate the idea of the DNA database

Provide examples of people freed/convicted for crimes from many years ago

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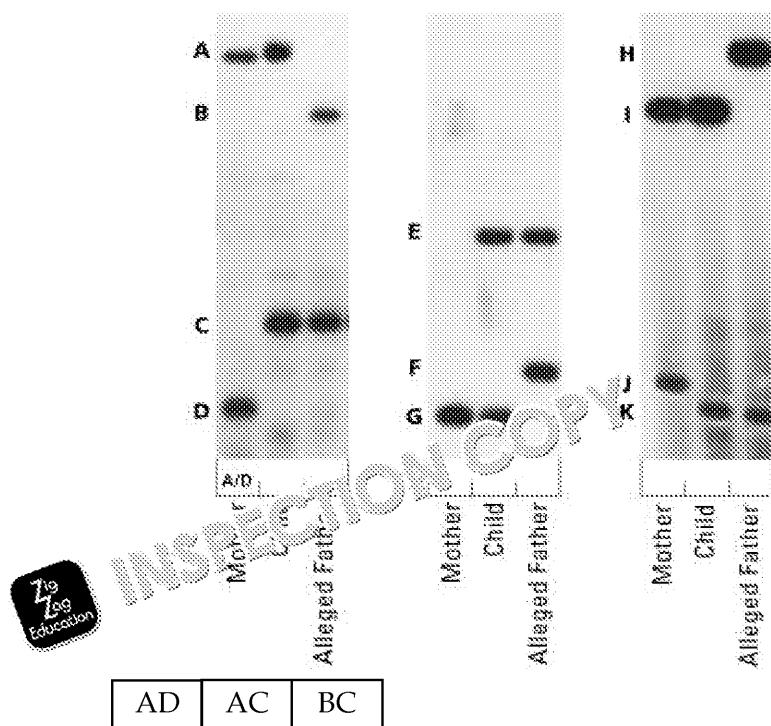
Applications of DNA Fingerprinting

Paternity Testing

In this hypothetical paternity case, four autoradiographs show DNA "fingerprints" of three individuals: a mother, her child, and the child's alleged father.

The two dark bands in each column represent one of an individual's DNA segments that individual's biological mother and the other from the biological father. The length from person to person varies, for this reason they are used as genetic markers designated by a letter from A through O.

The two letters associated with each segment indicate the individual's genotype.



Instructions

- Under each column in the autoradiograph, write the letters associated with the bands. For example, the genes of the mother in the first column are A/D. Then write the genotype that represents the gene inherited from the mother. The first of the two letters must be the letter associated with the band in the mother's column.
- Which "letters" must the child have inherited from its father?
- Is there evidence this is the child's father?

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Internal Skills Assessment – Forensic Science

How does the amount of catalase affect the breakdown of hydrogen peroxide?

The investigation could involve any way of changing the amount of catalase peroxide. The easiest source of catalase is potato cells. If students have meat or blood, they will need some background on the choice of source.

Pupils may need some help with the method, but should decide on their own take.

Suggested online method

Using 10 ml 20% vol Hydrogen peroxide in 6 boiling tubes, vary the amount of catalase. Pupils may either measure the height of the foam after a certain period of time, or measure the foam at completion of the reaction.

Pupils can work individually or in groups, but must produce their own tables.

Tables and graphs must be produced under direct supervision. These should be brought back in the subsequent ISA.

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Internal Skills Assessment – Forensic

Pupil instructions

Your task is to investigate how the rate at which hydrogen peroxide is broken down is affected by the amount of catalase present.

You will be using hydrogen peroxide, potato slices (a fair source of catalase).

Method

1. Measure out 10cm³ of hydrogen peroxide and put it in a test tube.
2. Using the cork borer, cut out a cylinder of potato.
3. Measure the length of the potato chip, and trim it to required length.
4. Insert the potato into the hydrogen peroxide.
5. Measure the amount of foam given off after a set amount of time.
6. Carry out the experiment again using different lengths of potato.

Remember

You must decide:

1. How you will make this a fair test
2. How many different lengths you should try
3. How many repeats you should carry out

Before you start the practical work, you must draw up a table ready to record your results.

When you have finished

1. Make sure that you have produced a clear table of results.
2. Select the most appropriate way to display the results in the form of a graph.

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Part 1

These questions refer to your own investigation into the effect of catalase on hydrogen peroxide. You should use your own results, your graphs and what you remember about the investigation to answer these questions. Answer all questions in the spaces provided.

1. What were you trying to find out in your investigation?

I was trying to find out if the



2. Name one variable that you kept the same

.....

3. Describe how this variable was controlled



4. In your investigation, which was:

a) The independent variable

b) The dependent variable

5. Describe how you measured your independent variable



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6. If you were to compare your results with others in your class, and all of the same, this would make your results:

More accurate

☐

More reliable

☐

More precise

☐

More valid

☐

7. Put a circle around any results that do not seem to fit your pattern. Your table or chart. If there are no anomalous results then say so here.



.....

8. Attach your table of results and your chart or graph to the paper.

9. Look back to question 1 where you wrote down what you were trying to find out and what you did find out from this experiment.

.....

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Part 2

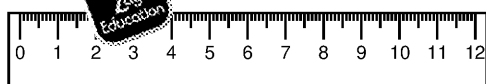
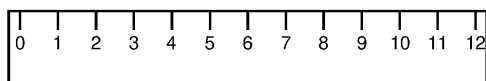
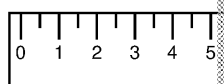
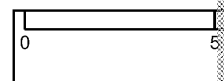
These questions relate to a different investigation.

A group of pupils carried out an investigation to see if there was a link between the height from which a ball was released from, and the diameter of the bloodstain.

They dropped drops of blood from a series of heights and measured the diameter of the bloodstain. Each measurement 3 times for each height. Their results are shown below:

Height (cm)	Diameter of stain (mm)	Diameter of stain (mm)	Diameter of stain (mm)
10	4	3	2
20	6	4	5
30	7	7	7
40	4	9	8
50	9	11	10
60	11	11	14
70	14	16	15
80	19	16	16
90	20	18	19
100	23	21	19

- Calculate the average diameter for each height and insert them in the table.
- Which of the following rulers should they have used for this investigation?


☐

☐


- What is the range of values obtained for a drop from a height of 40 cm?

.....

- Height and diameter are examples of which type of variable:

Categorical

☐

Continuous

☐

Discrete

☐

Ordered

☐

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5. Which is the best way of representing these results?


Tick the box with the correct answer.

Bar chart ☐

Line graph ☐

Scatter graph ☐

Pie chart ☐

6. The police realised later that the ruler used to measure the spatters was rather  10cm. What kind of error would this introduce?

Random ☐

Systematic ☐

Zero ☐

7. Write down one thing that would have to be kept the same during the test.

.....

8. There is one anomalous result shown in the table. Draw a ring around it.

.....

9. If the test was repeated, now should the results be treated?

The best of results should be kept and the others discarded

The results of all tests should be averaged to find the mean

The results of all the tests should be added together

The first set of results should be used unless the others are very different

10. Measuring the diameter in mm rather than cm makes the data more:

Accurate ☐

Precise ☐

Reliable ☐

Continuous ☐

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Mark scheme

Part 1

1. Rate of reaction or amount of foam/oxygen, or rate at which hydrogen peroxide is broken down, or any other suitable dependent variable
Amount/surface area of catalase, or potato, or of any suitable independent variable
2. Amount of peroxide, time left for reaction, temperature of peroxide, type of potato, any suitable control variable
3. Measured with a ruler, all done at room temp etc.
4. a) Amount of surface area of potato/catalase
b) Amount of foam/gas given off
5. With a ruler
6. More reliable
7. Anomalous results correctly identified or
Correct statement that there are none
8. All relevant data included
Columns and rows correctly labelled
Units present and correct
Correct choice of bar chart or graph
Suitable scales chosen and labelled
All points correctly plotted
9. Correct statement of relationship between independent and dependent variable.

Part 2

1. All averages correctly calculated and inserted into table
Deduct 1 mark for 2 or more errors
Answers 5, 7, 7, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 21
2. First ruler (smallest scale)
3. 4–9 cm
4. Continuous
5. Scatter graph
6. Zero
7. Volume of drop, consistency of blood used, any suitable control variable
8. Anomalous result 40 cm height first column identified
9. The results of all tests should be averaged to find the mean
10. Precise.

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