

Forensic Science

Forensic science is the collection of scientific evidence to help solve a crime. It is an interesting subject. Let's read more about it!

DNA



DNA, which stands for 'deoxyribonucleic acid', is in every cell in our body. Every person has unique DNA. At a crime scene, forensic scientists collect a few cell samples from a person's hair, saliva or blood. Then they analyse the DNA in the cells to get enough information for identifying the suspect of a crime.

Fingerprints

Fingerprints are also unique to every human. They can be used to identify a person directly and are one of the most reliable forms of identification. To collect fingerprint samples at a crime scene, forensic scientists often dust grey or black powder on a certain surface. Then they compare the samples obtained with the database. They can find the suspect if there is a match.



A Replace each underlined word with ONE word from the text.

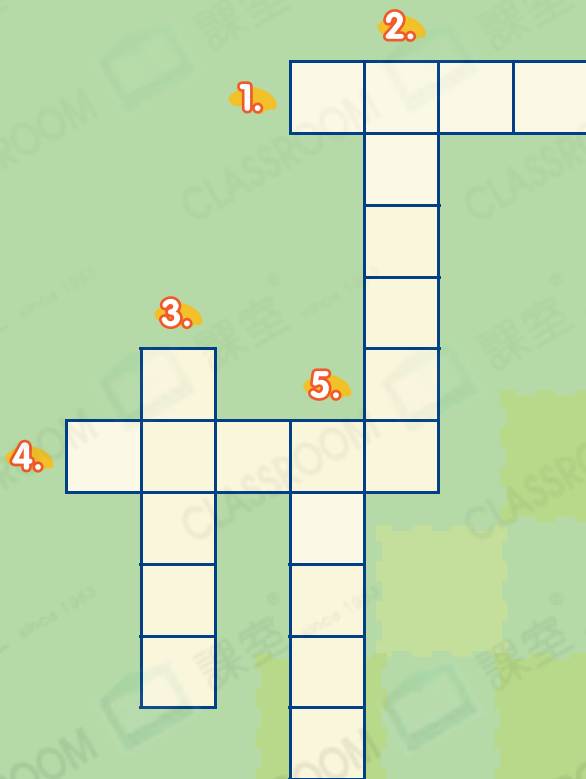
1. Scientists use a telescope to examine fibre samples. _____
2. Pieces of broken glass can be examined through DNA analysis. _____
3. Scientists need to compare a fingerprint sample collected to those in the file. _____
4. DNA testing involves extracting DNA from fingerprints. _____
5. Scientists put some oil on a surface to obtain fingerprint samples. _____

Fibres



Fibres found at a crime scene or on a victim can provide much information after chemical analysis. For example, under the microscope, scientists can examine some fibre samples taken at a crime scene and prove if they are the same as those found on the suspect's clothes. Besides, paper can be tested to see where it originated and pieces of broken glass can be traced back to their source.

B Read the hints and complete the crossword puzzle with the correct words from the text.



Hints:

1. Sometimes, forensic scientists _____ some magnetic powder on the floor and see if there is any trace of the suspect.
2. Besides fingerprints, DNA in every cell in a person's body is also _____ to every human.
3. We need some evidence to _____ that the suspect is guilty.
4. Robbery is the _____ of taking things from someone or somewhere unlawfully.
5. The police failed to find a _____ of the fingerprint samples they obtained.

STEAM Highlights

What in a blood sample can help scientists identify a person? (Find the answer from the text and check it on P.72.)