

Instructions

Read the information below about the types of evidence in forensic science. Then, complete the activities that follow.

Types of Evidence in Forensic Science

Forensic science relies on various types of evidence to solve crimes and contribute to legal cases. Understanding these types can be crucial for investigations. Here are some main categories:

1. **Physical Evidence:** These are tangible items that can be collected from a crime scene, such as fingerprints, hair, fibers, weapons, or any objects that can provide clues.
2. **Chemical Evidence:** This includes substances like drugs, poisons, or explosives. Tests can determine the composition and if any illegal substances were involved.
3. **Biological Evidence:** Any evidence that originates from a living organism, including blood, saliva, or other bodily fluids, can provide DNA information that may link a suspect to a crime.
4. **Digital Evidence:** Information obtained from electronic devices like computers, phones, or tablets, which may contain critical data, emails, or messages that can be relevant to a case.
5. **Trace Evidence:** Small quantities of materials like dirt, pollen, or gunshot residue that can be transferred from one place to another and might connect a suspect to a crime scene.

Activity 1: Reflection

In your own words, explain why each type of evidence is important in a forensic investigation. Use the space below for your answers.

1. Physical Evidence:

2. Chemical Evidence:

3. Biological Evidence:

4. Digital Evidence:

5. Trace Evidence:

Activity 2: Case Study

Imagine you are a forensic scientist working on a robbery case. Below are the types of evidence you

could encounter at the crime scene. Based on the evidence provided, list what type of forensic evidence it represents.

1. A bloody t-shirt found at the scene: _____
2. The suspect's fingerprints on a broken window: _____
3. A laptop that was stolen and tracked down: _____
4. Small particles of gunpowder found on the suspect's hands: _____
5. Paint chips from the suspect's car found near the scene: _____

Activity 3: Discussion Questions

Answer the following questions to think critically about the role of evidence in forensic science.

1. How does forensic evidence contribute to the legal process?

2. Why is it important for forensic scientists to maintain a chain of custody for evidence?

Review your answers thoughtfully. Understanding evidence is key to understanding how forensic science aids in solving crimes.