

Who took a bite?

This activity works best with multiple participants.

Materials needed:

- Cheese slices, apple slices, small sandwiches, or other similarly firm but not crispy food item — enough for everyone in your group plus one
 - Pen and paper or digital alternative to document your findings
1. Randomly select someone in your group, and without revealing who was chosen, have that person take a single bite from one of the cheese slices.
 2. Then reassemble your group and have each one take a single bite from another piece of cheese. You can even include your dog (if you can persuade them to take only a single bite).
 3. Photograph each bite mark with and without the scale, and document the evidence: person, time, and date.
 4. Compare the known bite marks to the unidentified bite mark in the first cheese slice. Use the scale measurements and visual interpretation to identify the unknown biter.

Whose glass?

This activity works best with multiple participants.

Materials needed:

- Smooth surface drinking glasses for your group
 - An erasable marker or enough sticky notes for each glass
 - Lip balm, lipstick, or petroleum jelly
 - Water or other beverage
 - Pen and paper or digital alternative to document your findings
1. Ask each person to
 - put their initials on the bottom of their glass
 - apply a thin layer of lip balm to their lips.
 2. Put some water in each glass, and ask everyone to take a drink.
 3. Rearrange the glasses without disturbing the lip marks on the rim or the identifying information on the bottom.
 4. Photograph the lip marks on each glass. Use the scale measurements and your observations to match the glass to the person. No peeking!
 5. Check the bottoms of the glasses to verify your findings.

Procedure

- When taking evidence photos, the more megapixels the better. At least 12 MP is ideal.
- You can use your cellphone camera to take evidence photos, but a dedicated DSLR camera offers access to additional settings and options.

For instructions and tips on using a DSLR camera to take evidence photos, go to <https://forensikit.com/evidence-photography>.

For each piece of evidence:

1. Take a wide shot to show where the item is in relation to the room and to show the evidence.
2. To make the item more visible, place a marker or scale near the evidence item without interfering with it.
3. Position your camera directly above the item at a 90° angle to eliminate distortions in the photo.
4. Take the picture, and examine it in your camera app or preview screen.
5. Make adjustments. Try oblique lighting to bring out details if appropriate.

Did You Know?

Forensic photography was pioneered by Alphonse Bertillon in the late 19th century. His approach of photographing the entire crime scene using standardized metrics and camera angles revolutionized criminal investigation.

A crime scene photographer must document all evidence before it can be disturbed. Therefore, they are the first to process a scene before investigators can touch anything.

A forensic photographer must have a good eye for detail and work methodically and efficiently.

Forensic photography can capture evidence that cannot be physically collected such as blood spatter and bite marks.

Forensic photography can also preserve evidence that is subject to change over time such as a blood droplet that can change shape if it is disturbed in any way.

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