

Crime Scene Investigator

You've probably seen crime scene investigators (CSIs) at work on television detective shows. They carefully gather clues at fictional crime scenes. Then they process the evidence in high-tech labs. Which clue will crack the case? It could be fingerprints, a weapon, or even cell phone files. DNA evidence like hair, blood, or saliva can help identify potential suspects. Every piece of evidence is like part of a giant puzzle. Putting them all together helps solve crimes.



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(Feel free to use the back of this sheet for longer answers)

Whodunnit?

Crime scene investigators are part scientist and part detective. The detective part of the job involves gathering evidence at a crime scene. Every possible clue must be identified, photographed, tagged, and bagged. The scientist part of the job happens at the police lab. Each piece of evidence is carefully examined using using a variety of high-tech tools.

Crime scene investigators work on serious crimes like murder and bank robbery. They obviously need to know a lot about science. Most of them have college degrees in criminal justice, forensic science, or biology. Many of them are also police officers who have graduated from a police academy. Thanks to the work of crime scene detectives, many a criminal has learned that crime does not pay.

CHALLENGE #1: *If you had this career...*

What kind of training would you need?

Where could you find a job?

How much money could you earn?

Who would you help and how would you make a difference

Why would (or wouldn't) you like doing a job like this?

CHALLENGE #2: Think Tank

Every person's DNA is unique. When criminals leave DNA evidence behind at a crime scene, it's almost as if they left a big sign that says, "I did it!"

Imagine that you are crime scene investigator. You found DNA evidence that identified a likely suspect in a serious crime. Now that suspect is on trial. You must testify about the evidence in court. How can you convince the jury that the DNA evidence is solid and can be trusted to solve this crime?

Put together a presentation to make your case.

