

CSI TOOLKIT

OVERVIEW

In this activity, you'll collect items to create your own CSI toolkit.

Have you ever wondered what it'd be like to work as a crime scene investigator? What tools do investigators use to gather evidence at a crime scene? Well, here's your chance to find out as you create your own crime scene investigation (CSI) toolkit.

You'll collect items from around your home to make your own CSI toolkit. You can then set up a mock crime scene to investigate, as well as using this toolkit for other activities in this series.

Note: Wherever possible we've included items you're likely to find around your home, in the kitchen, laundry, bathroom or study. For a few items, you might need a trip to a hardware or craft store. And remember you can substitute items, too.



WATCH THE
VIDEO LINK



IDEAL FOR
ALL AGES



ADULT SUPERVISION
REQUIRED

WHAT TO DO

1. Find a large container to place all your CSI equipment in.
2. Look around your house to find the following items:
 - Protective gloves
 - Notepad
 - Pen
 - Scale
 - Small plastic bags
 - Specimen collection jars (glass or plastic)
 - Torch
 - UV Light (if available)
 - Evidence markers
 - String
 - Index cards
 - Safety glasses
 - Chalk
 - Magnifying glass
 - Paintbrush
 - Plastic gloves
 - Clear sticky tape
 - Tweezers
 - Marker pen
 - Eyedropper
 - Cotton buds
 - Scissors
 - Coloured tape (yellow and red)
 - Tape measure
 - Ruler
 - Apron, lab coat, overalls or other protective clothing
 - Hair net or hair tie
3. Personalise your kit by making your own ID Badge.
4. If you can, having a camera available is ideal for documenting the crime scene and any evidence collected.



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HOW TO SET UP A MOCK CRIME SCENE

1. Create a narrative for the crime.
2. Select a crime scene location.
3. Place evidence at the crime scene (e.g. fingerprints on a glass, shoe print in mud, mystery white powder, hair or fibre samples, sources of DNA and so on). The evidence you place will need to support your narrative.
4. Invite your CSI investigator to bring their toolkit to the scene. Encourage them to secure the scene, take steps to prevent contamination (e.g. use hairnet, shoe covers, protective clothing, gloves and so on) and to go about gathering evidence.

FOR DISCUSSION

- Discuss the evidence your investigator has gathered. Have they found all the evidence you placed at the crime scene?
- Discuss how the evidence might be further analysed. Look at some of the other activities in this series for inspiration.
- Discuss the steps your investigator took to prevent contamination of the scene and contamination of the evidence. Why is this important?
- Discuss what the evidence might tell investigators about the crime?

BACKGROUND: WORKING IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

There are four main areas in the forensic science field: field science, laboratory science, medical science and digital evidence.

The crime scene investigator brings the equipment required for analysis to the scene.

This includes the tools required for fingerprint dusting and lifting, collecting fibres, visualising blood spatter, collecting biological evidence and recording all visual evidence at the crime scene. All evidence is gathered and taken for analysis by laboratory forensic scientists.

A vital part of the crime scene investigator's job is to ensure that none of the evidence collected at the crime scene is contaminated by the investigator's presence.

This is why the crime scene is secured and investigators wear disposable overalls, safety glasses, hairnets, shoe covers and gloves. These precautions reduce the possibility of additional fibres, hair or other biological evidence contaminating the crime scene.

DID YOU KNOW?

Crime scene investigators are considered field forensic scientist as they examine the crime scene and search for clues to collect as evidence of the crime committed.