

EVIDENCE LAB

KEY CONCEPTS

Review with your students before your visit. Students should be familiar with basic lab techniques such as using a microscope and following written lab procedures.

BLOOD SPATTER ANALYSIS

Forensic technicians can use the shape and pattern of blood spatter to determine what may have happened at the scene of a crime.

DNA FINGERPRINT

A method of identification that compares fragments of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), genetic material found within the cell nuclei of all living things. DNA fingerprints are unique to individuals (except identical siblings).

FIREARM/BULLET ANALYSIS

The science of matching manufacturing imperfections on a firearm to the marks they leave on the bullet and cartridge case.

GEL ELECTROPHORESIS

A procedure that separates DNA fragments according to size.

IMPRESSION EVIDENCE

This occurs when an object is pressed against another object and leaves behind a copy of its surface features. Impression evidence includes footprints, tool marks and tire treads.

TRACE EVIDENCE

Evidence left behind at a crime scene in measurable amounts. Trace evidence includes impression evidence and materials that can be viewed under a microscope such as hairs, fibers, wood, soil, sand, building materials and paint.