INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SCIENCE

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BELL-RINGER

• Where are most people likely to die in their homes?
• How might understanding insects help in a Forensic Investigation?
• Describe the process of Rigor Mortis?
DEFINITION

• In its broadest definition, Forensic Science is the application of science to criminal and civil laws.
• The subject matter of this book emphasizes the application of science to those criminal and civil laws that are enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system.
DEFINITION (CONT’D)

• Forensic science owes its origins to individuals such as Bertillon, Galton, Lattes, Goddard, Osborn, and Locard, who developed the principles and techniques needed to identify or compare physical evidence.
CSI
HISTORY

- Mathieu Orfila
  - The father of forensic toxicology.
- Alphonse Bertillion
  - Devised the first scientific system of personal identification in 1879.
HISTORY

- Francis Galton
  - Conducted the first definitive study of fingerprints and their classification.
- Leone Lattes
  - Developed a procedure to determine blood type from dried bloodstains.
HISTORY

• Calvin Goddard
  • Used a comparison microscope to determine if a particular gun fired a bullet.
• Albert Osborn
  • Developed the fundamental principles of document examination.
HISTORY

- Walter McCrone
  - Utilized microscopy and other analytical methodologies to examine evidence.

- Hans Gross
  - Wrote the first treatise describing the application of scientific principles to the field of criminal investigation.
HISTORY

• Edmond Locard
  • Incorporated Gross’ principles within a workable crime laboratory.

• Locard’s Exchange Principle
  • States that when a criminal comes in contact with an object or person, a cross-transfer of evidence occurs.
THE CRIME LAB

• The ever increasing number of crime laboratories is partly the result of the following:
  • Supreme Court decisions in the 1960s responsible for police placing greater emphasis on scientifically evaluated evidence.
THE CRIME LAB

- The ever increasing number of crime laboratories is partly the result of the following:
  - Crime laboratories inundated with drug specimens due to accelerated drug abuse.
  - The advent of DNA profiling.
JOURNAL ENTRY

• On a separate sheet of paper.
• List the following:
  
  • 3 Things you learned.
  • 2 Things you liked or disliked
  • 1 Question.

• Due at the end of class😊