

*Handout 4-D***New Wildlife Crime:
You're in Charge**

Name _____ Date _____

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Apply What You Know to a New Crime*Your Job*

You are a wildlife investigator. Your state has a wildlife crime reporting program called Operation Game Thief (OGT). This lets the public anonymously report suspected crimes against wildlife. Since wildlife officers have such huge territories to patrol, they rely on and greatly appreciate these tips.

You have been assigned as lead investigator on a new crime. Use all your experiences (questioning suspects and witnesses, gathering and analyzing evidence, piecing together all the pieces to the crime puzzle, and presenting your case) to design an investigation strategy for your new case.

*Your Crime Assignment***For a State Crime:**

Go to your state's OGT website (Search "Operation Game Thief (state)") or talk with your local wildlife agency to find information about current crimes under investigation in your state. Forty-nine out of 50 states have OGT. Many websites have brief descriptions of current cases or cold cases.

Note: If your state does not have crimes listed on the website, look at Operation Game Thief websites of neighboring states or check one of the OGT websites of these states: Colorado, New Mexico, Maine, Nevada, Kansas, or Wyoming.

For an International Crime:

- Go to TRAFFIC (The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network) at www.traffic.org. Find an article about a crime in the "News Room."
- Go to National Geographic News at <http://news.nationalgeographic.com>. Find an article about a crime or threats to wildlife in the "Animals and Nature News."

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Investigator's Report on the Crime

1. What do the authorities know about the crime? (who, what, when, where, why, how?)
2. What types of evidence do they have to help solve this crime? (Including but not limited to antlers, human blood, DNA, fingerprints, animal and human hair, unidentified liquid and powders, animal skull, animal tracks)
3. What wildlife laws might have been broken?
4. What questions do investigators need to answer in order to solve the crime?
5. What are the next steps the investigators should take?