

*Handout F'*U.S. National Fish and
Wildlife Forensics Laboratory:
The Real Thing

Name _____ Date _____

- CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS -

*An Overview
by Ken Goddard*

"The National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory is the only lab in the world dedicated entirely to examining and identifying evidence from wildlife victims of national and international crime. Opened in 1989, it is run as a typical police crime laboratory. Its unique challenge is to research and develop new animal characteristics that allow scientists to identify a species from body pieces, parts, and products. Staff must be able to prove that the evidence came from one of thousands of possible animal species in the world.



Veterinary pathologists in the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory conduct necropsies (autopsies of animals) on [upper right] a cougar and [upper left] an eagle. The two dead wolves on the floor are waiting to be necropsied to determine how they died. Both were later determined to have been shot, as were the cougar and the eagle.

What exactly goes on here? Well, pretty much the same thing that goes on in a regular crime laboratory. But in case you're still curious, all crime laboratories—whether they are police or wildlife oriented—do two things:

- They examine, identify, and compare evidence items using a wide range of scientific procedures and instruments.
- In a triangular manner, they attempt to link suspect, victim, and crime scene with physical evidence.

The only real difference between our wildlife crime lab and a 'typical' police crime laboratory is that our victim is an animal. And we must keep in mind that, every now and then, our suspect will turn out to be an animal also. For obvious reasons, it's important that we not confuse the natural events of 'Mother Nature'—one animal killing another for food or territory—with human violations of wildlife laws."

Ken Goddard is director of the National Forensics Laboratory, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1490 E. Main St., Ashland, OR 97520-1310. www.lab.fws.gov.

Copyright © 2008 by the National Science Teachers Association. All rights reserved.

Handout G

Essential Questions About Crime Scene Investigations

Name _____ Date _____

- CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS -

Have students write responses to these questions in their Investigator Notebooks* and discuss in small groups.

1. Use the **K-W-L** format to answer the following questions (**K-W-L** stands for: What I **K**now—What I **W**ant to Know—What I **L**earned):
 - What do I know about crime scene investigations? (Put a star by information you are not sure is accurate.)
 - What do I want to know about crime scene investigations?
 - At the end of the crime investigation (Section 3): What did I learn about crime scene investigations?
2. How is forensic science different from other kinds of science?
3. Is one type of evidence better than another? Explain.

*For more information on the use of Investigator Notebooks see pages xxv–xxvi.



Topic: forensics
Go to: www.scilinks.org
Code: UF01

*Handout H*Your First Wildlife Crime:
Moose Slaughter in Maine

Name _____ Date _____

- CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS -

“A \$10,000.00 reward is being offered to anyone who can provide information that leads to the arrest of whoever is responsible for the killing of nine moose northwest of Greenville on or around the 23rd of October. People with any information regarding this case should call the Game Thief Hotline at 1-800-ALERT-US (1-800-253-7887).

“This is one of the most despicable wildlife killings in the history of this state,’ said Lieutenant Pat Dorian of the Maine Warden Service. ‘This slaughter defies description.’

“The slaughtered moose carcasses were discovered in a three-mile radius on a logging road in Soldiertown township northwest of Greenville. The moose were believed to be killed on or around Saturday, October 23, a week before deer season and two weeks after the close of the moose season. If someone saw anyone the weekend of 10/23/99 around Center Pond, we would be very interested in knowing what they saw.

“After the discovery of the nine carcasses, wardens searched the area for physical evidence by foot and with K-9 units. Hunter Checkpoints were established and game wardens patrolled the area. Wardens have also been to area sporting camps, lodges, and area motels seeking information about the nine dead moose.

“We had nearly the entire division working on this when discovered for about ten days. We have brainstormed every night. We know that it is someone who is very familiar with the country up here, because the location where the moose were shot is very remote and off the beaten path.

“Inland Fisheries and Wildlife biologist Doug Kane inspected the dead animals and determined that there was one bull moose, four mature females and four moose calves under a year old.

“Over 100 people were interviewed in conjunction with the killing and more will be as we find more leads. There is a list of suspects and a considerable amount of physical evidence but more information is needed to wrap up this case. There is no question that more than one person was involved in this slaughter.

“‘We take each and every wildlife crime seriously,’ said Joe Maslach, game warden in Eureka. ‘These crimes deprive sportsmen of the opportunity to legally hunt these animals, and these crimes also hurt our wildlife management efforts.’”

—*Operation Game Thief, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.* www.maine.gov/ifw/aboutus/wardenservice/operationgamethief/index.htm

Handout H

Your First Wildlife Crime:
Moose Slaughter in Maine

Student Questions

1. What do the authorities know about the crime?
 - a. Whom do they suspect? (general characteristics)
 - b. What was the crime?
 - c. When was the crime?
 - d. Where was the crime?

2. How could the following types of evidence help solve this crime?
 - Antlers
 - Human blood
 - DNA
 - Fingerprints
 - Animal and human hair
 - Unidentified liquid and powders
 - Animals skull
 - Animal tracks

3. What are the next steps the investigators should take?