

# Unit 2- Human Remains Provide Details

Content Area: **Science**  
Course(s): **Forensic Science**  
Time Period: **October**  
Length: **10 Blocks**  
Status: **Published**

## Enduring Understandings

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- An autopsy is performed if a death is suspicious or unexplained.
- Forensic anthropologists identify and examine human skeletal remains to gain insight into a crime.

## Essential Questions

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How can an autopsy help to solve a crime?

## Content

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Vocabulary  
Autopsy  
Rigor mortis  
Liver mortis  
Algor mortis

## Skills

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Explain the reasons for an autopsy  
Identify the basics steps in an autopsy  
Compare and contrast the types of autopsies  
Analyze autopsy data and draw conclusions  
Identify the major bones in the human body  
Compare and contrast a male and female skeleton  
Compare skeletal features unique to various ethnic groups  
Predicting human characteristics based on skeletal remains

## Resources

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- Teacher's Wraparound Edition for Forensic Science: An Introduction, 2nd Edition

Richard Saferstein, Forensic Science Consultant ©2011 |Prentice Hall

- Instructor's Manual with Lesson Plans for Forensic Science: An Introduction, 2nd Edition

Richard Saferstein, Forensic Science Consultant ©2011 |Prentice Hall

- Basic Laboratory Exercises for Forensic Science: An Introduction, 2nd Edition

Richard Saferstein, Forensic Science Consultant ©2011 |Prentice Hall

- Forensic Science Experiments (Facts on File Science Experiments) Hardcover – October 1, 2009

by [Pamela Walker](#) (Author), [Elaine Wood](#) (Author)

- Forensic Science Experiments on File (Facts on File Science Library) Ring-bound

- Crime Scene Investigations: Real-Life Science Labs For Grades 6-12

by [Pam Walker](#), [Elaine Wood](#), [Christopher Stone \(Illustrator\)](#)

## Assessments

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Performance: Lab Assignment

Lab: Building Up a Human Skeleton Students cut out pieces and build a skeleton. Students learn what bones look like and where they belong.

Performance: Lab Assignment

Lab: Bits and Pieces Students take small bone fragments and missing person cases to determine who the bones belong to based on sex and age.

Performance: Lab Assignment

Lab: Male/Female Bone Determination Students assess various bones to determine the sex.

## Standards

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SCI.9-12.CCC.1

Patterns.

SCI.9-12.CCC.2

Cause and effect: Mechanism and explanation.

SCI.9-12.CCC.2.1

students understand that empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and to make claims about specific causes and effects. They suggest cause and effect relationships to explain and predict behaviors in complex natural and designed systems. They also propose causal relationships by examining what is known about smaller scale mechanisms within the system. They recognize changes in systems may have various

causes that may not have equal effects.

SCI.9-12.SEP.1

Asking Questions and Defining Problems

SCI.9-12.SEP.1.a

Ask questions

SCI.9-12.SEP.1.a.1

that arise from careful observation of phenomena, or unexpected results, to clarify and/or seek additional information.

SCI.9-12.SEP.1.a.2

that arise from examining models or a theory, to clarify and/or seek additional information and relationships.

SCI.9-12.SEP.1.a.3

to determine relationships, including quantitative relationships, between independent and dependent variables.

Observed patterns in nature guide organization and classification and prompt questions about relationships and causes underlying them.