

# Unit 1: Introduction, Skills and Techniques

Content Area: **Science**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**  
Length: **4 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Introduction

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This topic will cover the basic overview of what Forensic Science entails. Subcontent areas will include Deductive Reasoning, Memory Skills and Observation, and Crime Scene Techniques.

## Standards

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SCI.9-12.HS-ETS1-4.4.1	Models (e.g., physical, mathematical, computer models) can be used to simulate systems and interactions— including energy, matter, and information flows— within and between systems at different scales.
SCI.9-12.HS-LS2-1.3.1	students understand the significance of a phenomenon is dependent on the scale, proportion, and quantity at which it occurs. They recognize patterns observable at one scale may not be observable or exist at other scales, and some systems can only be studied indirectly as they are too small, too large, too fast, or too slow to observe directly. Students use orders of magnitude to understand how a model at one scale relates to a model at another scale. They use algebraic thinking to examine scientific data and predict the effect of a change in one variable on another (e.g., linear growth vs. exponential growth).
SCI.9-12.HS-LS2-2.3.1	Using the concept of orders of magnitude allows one to understand how a model at one scale relates to a model at another scale.
SCI.9-12.HS-LS1-1.6.1	students investigate systems by examining the properties of different materials, the structures of different components, and their interconnections to reveal the system's function and/or solve a problem. They infer the functions and properties of natural and designed objects and systems from their overall structure, the way their components are shaped and used, and the molecular substructures of their various materials.
SCI.9-12.HS-LS2-6.7.1	students understand much of science deals with constructing explanations of how things change and how they remain stable. They quantify and model changes in systems over very short or very long periods of time. They see some changes are irreversible, and negative feedback can stabilize a system, while positive feedback can destabilize it. They recognize systems can be designed for greater or lesser stability.
SCI.9-12.HS-PS1-1.1.1	students observe patterns in systems at different scales and cite patterns as empirical evidence for causality in supporting their explanations of phenomena. They recognize classifications or explanations used at one scale may not be useful or need revision using a different scale; thus requiring improved investigations and experiments. They use mathematical representations to identify certain patterns and analyze patterns of performance in order to reengineer and improve a designed system.
SCI.9-12.HS-PS2-1.2.1	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.HS-PS3-5.2.1	Cause and effect relationships can be suggested and predicted for complex natural and human designed systems by examining what is known about smaller scale mechanisms within the system.
SCI.9-12.HS-PS3-1.4.1	Models can be used to predict the behavior of a system, but these predictions have limited precision and reliability due to the assumptions and approximations inherent in models.
SCI.9-12.HS-PS2-2.4.1	When investigating or describing a system, the boundaries and initial conditions of the system need to be defined.

## Essential Questions

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How can observation and memory lead to meaningful conclusions?

Why are careful measurements and reconstructions necessary to Forensic Science?

## Content / Skills

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### Content

- The importance of Deductive Reasoning and Top Down Logic
- The relationship between Memory and Observation
- The structure of a crime scene
- The relationship between Trace, Physical and DNA Evidence

### Skills

- Analyze a crime scene for evidence
- Describe specific factors from memory of an event or scene
- Compare and contrast physical evidence, DNA evidence and Trace Evidence
- Draw meaningful conclusions based on evidence and observation