

Crime Scene Investigator Teacher Tips

Crime scene investigator (aka forensic scientist) is another high-interest way to engage students in STEM-focused career exploration. Students are likely to be familiar with the career from television and other media encounters. It is a career likely to appeal to those interested in law and public safety pursuits as well as those with strong science interests. In fact, it is a terrific example of how career options often bridge a person's interests and aptitudes.



DISCUSS

Who doesn't love a good mystery? Use a book, a current event, or other hook to start a discussion about how crime scene investigators use science to help solve crimes.

READ

Students can read about crime scene investigators out loud as a class or silently on their own.

CHALLENGE #1: If You Had This Career...

Several queries prompt students to get up close and personal with essential information about this career option. As they work through each question, remind students to relate this information to their own attributes, interests, and aspirations. Online research tools include:

- Using Google (or another approved Internet search engine) to make specific queries like “what kind of training does a crime scene investigator need” or “what is DNA.”
- Visiting career information websites like www.getmyfuture.org or www.mynextmove.org. Both of these websites are sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor.
- If available, tapping into your school's career development software platform (such as Career Cruising) or your state's career and college information system (such as www.CFNC.org).

CHALLENGE #2: FZ | FS]

This challenge puts students in a scenario where they, as crime scene investigators, must testify in court about DNA evidence which suggests the guilt of a defendant in a criminal trial. Students must be prepared to with solid information to convince the jury of the reliability of DNA.evidence. Student deliverables can be as simple as a list of five reasons why DNA is an acceptable source of identification or as challenging as students actually making presentations before a mock jury. Available class time and learning objectives dictate how deep you'll want to dig into this subject matter.

EXTEND THE DISCUSSION

Use this career option as a way to open up discussion about other careers related to issues threatening the world's oceans and ideas for protecting these essential natural resources.

EXPLORE MORE STEAM CAREERS

Bright Futures Press features two STEAM-focused career exploration series in its middle grade collection. Go online to www.brightfuturespress.com to find out more about the **Find Your Future in STEAM** and **Emerging Tech Careers** series.