

Cookie Jar Mystery: A Study in Forensic Science

Build Science Learning with Fun!

Cookie Jar Mystery is immersion science at its best! Students use real laboratory techniques and materials, create theories about the “crime,” and test their hypotheses much like bench scientists. Along the way, students acquire new vocabulary, explore careers in forensics, and become acquainted with scientific procedures and processes they will also encounter in their classrooms. At its core, *Cookie Jar Mystery* is designed to spark students’ interest in science.

National, state, and local standards all highlight the need for children’s enrichment activities to improve science literacy. As students engage in the investigative activities of *Cookie Jar Mystery*, they experience science in an authentic hands-on environment that illuminates the use of evidence, models, tools, and techniques in science inquiry. Students analyze hair and pollen samples, investigate fiber samples, study blood types, and learn about DNA profiling. They test their powers of observation and use lie detection techniques as they examine statements written by each suspect.

Applying real laboratory techniques, students form teams to analyze trace evidence, unknown substances, handwriting, bite marks, fingerprints, and even (simulated) blood left at the crime scene. In the culminating activity, students analyze their findings, and—using deductive reasoning—point their fingers at the guilty party.

These highly engaging activities help students develop strong research and problem-solving skills in an atmosphere of fun and high interest!

Anyone Can Teach *Cookie Jar Mystery*

Created for the non-specialist instructor, lessons in *Cookie Jar Mystery* are easy to plan, understand and deliver. Each lesson, designed to run approximately one hour, is thoroughly outlined for the instructor in our easy-to-follow Instructor’s Guide. The Guide provides step-by-step directions for working with students, and includes background information, safety instructions, materials lists, demonstration details, and a list of exciting web sites and links instructors can use to extend and enhance their lessons. Anyone motivated to engage students in this exciting program can teach *Cookie Jar Mystery*.

Engage. Expand. Inspire!



Instructor's Guide

Grade Level: 4 - 5

Learning Objectives:

To introduce students to forensic science through a classroom crime scene investigation.

Benefits:

- Introduces authentic crime scene analysis techniques
- Sharpens scientific inquiry skills and deductive reasoning
- Improves complex problem solving skills
- Attractive in recruiting and engaging reluctant learners
- Sparks an interest in further science learning and careers

CRIME SCENE
DO NOT CROSS

Course Outline

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- Lesson 1: Heads Up: Observation Skills
- Lesson 2: Think Ink: Ink Chromatography
- Lesson 3: The White Stuff: White Substances & Toxicology
- Lesson 4: Pull Some Strings: Fiber Analysis
- Lesson 5: Hair We Go: Hair Samples
- Lesson 6: Follow the Grain: Pollen Analysis
- Lesson 7: Make an Impression: Bite Marks
- Lesson 8: Bloody Brilliant: Blood Types
- Lesson 9: One of a Kind: Fingerprint Evidence
- Lesson 10: Crack the Code: DNA
- Lesson 11: Let's Talk: Questioning Our Suspects
- Lesson 12: Who Dunit?: Examining & Analyzing All the Evidence

Course Kit Options

Summer Camp Kit includes all the supplies to support a class of 30 students. Product# CJM1100-SC, \$749



Classroom Kit includes all the essential supplies to support a class of 30 students. Product# CJM1100-CR, \$399



Resupply Kit CJM1100-RS, \$159 Preprinted Student Books CJM1100-SB-15 \$159 and CJM1100-SB-30 \$269



How It Works

The Instructor's Guide leads teachers through a well designed enrichment experience for their students. With set-up procedures, background information and step-by-step directions for every activity, your instructors only need to bring their energy and enthusiasm. Supplies are provided with the course and lesson plans have been created for your instructors.

Why It Works

Thematic integration is what makes Community Learning courses work—students get extended engagement over several days and/or weeks that builds confidence, character and competency in a variety of subject areas. With an emphasis on fun, Community Learning's courses work to ignite curiosity and stimulate authentic learning in contexts ranging from screenwriting to criminal investigation.

Where It Works

No specialist knowledge is required to get these exciting learning activities off the ground! Community Learning courses offer experiential learning that's ideal for classrooms, team building, after-school programs, gifted and talented groups, academic camps, and summer school.

About Community Learning

Our approach builds on the foundation of collaborative learning where students learn best from one another by working together to answer questions and solve problems. Each course is developed in consultation with subject area experts.