

# Missing Money Mystery: An Introduction to Forensic Science

## Experiments in Learning!

*Missing Money Mystery* is hands-on science and academic enrichment at its best! Using real laboratory techniques and materials, students create theories about the “crime” of a classroom burglary, much as real detectives (and real scientists!) use their powers of critical thinking to track down the thief. Along the way, they practice critical thinking, acquire new vocabulary, explore careers in forensics, and become acquainted with scientific procedures and processes they will encounter in their classrooms. At its core, *Missing Money Mystery* is designed to spark students’ interest in science.

National, state, and local standards point to the need for children’s enrichment activities to improve science literacy. The high engagement in *Missing Money Mystery* drives an enduring enthusiasm for learning about science. As teachers and learners follow the fun embedded in *Missing Money Mystery*, they experience science in an authentic, hands-on environment that highlights the use of evidence, models, tools, and techniques in scientific inquiry.

Students analyze soil samples, investigate fiber samples, study tire tread patterns, and learn about DNA profiling. Applying real laboratory techniques, students form teams to analyze unique clues such as tire tracks, lip prints, and even a mysterious white powder left at the crime scene. They test their powers of observation and data collection. In the culminating activity, students analyze their findings and—using deductive reasoning—point their fingers at the guilty party. The “gumshoe” activities of *Missing Money Mystery* can inspire students to develop strong research and problem-solving skills.

### Anyone Can Teach *Missing Money Mystery*

Created for the non-specialist instructor, lessons in *Missing Money 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 not only provides step-by-step directions for working with students (including background information, safety instructions, materials lists, and demonstration details), but also a “script” that knits together the intriguing story of Mr. Mugg and his team of classroom detectives. Each lesson can be extended and enhanced with websites and links that further explore selected topics. Anyone motivated to engage students in this exciting program can teach *Missing Money Mystery*.

Engage. Expand. Inspire!



### Instructor's Guide

Grade Level: 2 - 3

### Learning Objectives:

To introduce students to inquiry-based science by applying forensic science techniques in a realistic crime scenario.

### Benefits:

- Introduces crime scene investigative techniques
- Strengthens problem solving skills
- Promotes collaborative learning
- Builds interest in further science, technology and math learning
- Reinforces Common Core

**Crime Scene Investigators wanted!**

# Course Outline

## Course Outline

- Lesson 1: Figuring Out Forensics: Organization and Observation
- Lesson 2: Securing the Scene: Collecting Evidence
- Lesson 3: Powder Power: Solutions or Suspensions
- Lesson 4: Natural or Not: Fiber Identification
- Lesson 5: Tracking the Tires: Tread Patterns
- Lesson 6: Digging for Dirt: Soil Samples
- Lesson 7: Cast a Clue: Shoe Print Evidence
- Lesson 8: Crack the Code: Cryptograms
- Lesson 9: Lifting Lips: Lip Prints
- Lesson 10: Proof in Profiling: DNA Identification
- Lesson 11: Suspicious Statements: Means, Motive, Opportunity
- Lesson 12: Case Closed: Analyzing Evidence

## Course Kit Options

Summer Camp Kit includes all the supplies to support a class of up to 30 students. Product# MMM800-SC, \$749



Classroom Kit includes all the essential supplies to support a class of up to 30 students. Product# MMM800-CR, \$399



Resupply Kit MMM800-RS \$159, Preprinted Student Books MMM800-SB-15 \$159 and MMM800-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.