

# Rogue Rodent Mystery: A Crime Scene Investigation

## Attention all pint sized detectives !

*Rogue Rodent 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 gain a deeper understanding of forensics, acquire new vocabulary, and become acquainted with scientific procedures and processes they will also encounter in their classrooms. At its core, *Rogue Rodent 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 *Rogue Rodent 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 the crime scene, look at obvious clues like mysterious blotches of orange paint and an open window, and learn about force and motion to determine how a suspect moved in Ms. Hawkins’ classroom where Alice, the classroom guinea pig, was last seen. Students test their powers of observation to sketch the crime scene, create a composite sketch of the suspect and learn about what Alice needs to survive!

To limit the suspect possibilities, Ms. Hawkins has narrowed the list of suspects to four—all current students of hers. Together, your students will work toward the most plausible scenarios and celebrate their findings in the concluding lesson with certificates honoring their work as forensic investigators.

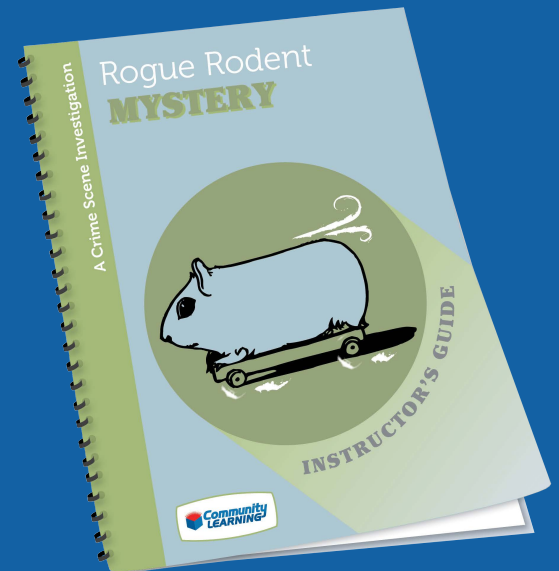
Applying real laboratory techniques, students form teams to analyze trace evidence, weigh out the evidence on scales and examine muddy shoe prints found on the classroom floor. In the culminating activity, students analyze their findings, and—using deductive reasoning—point their fingers at the guilty 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 *The Rogue Rodent Mystery*

Created for the non-specialist instructor, lessons in *Rogue Rodent 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 *Rogue Rodent Mystery*.

Engage. Expand. Inspire!



## Instructor's Guide

Grade Level: K - 1

## Learning Objectives:

To introduce students to forensic science through a classroom mystery that involves their beloved pet guinea pig, Alice.

## Benefits:

- Ignites student interest in Science
- Promotes learning of how to conduct scientific inquiry
- Improves vocabulary introduced in crime scene analysis
- Attractive in recruiting and engaging reluctant learners
- Builds skills in collaborative learning



MISSING!

# Course Outline

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- Lesson 1: Observing the Clues: Investigating With Your Senses
- Lesson 2: Recording Your Findings: Sketching the Scene
- Lesson 3: Listening to a Witness: Creating a Composite Sketch
- Lesson 4: Analyzing Alibis: Monitoring Movement of Suspects
- Lesson 5: Applying Physics: Studying Force on a Falling Skeleton
- Lesson 6: Inspecting Pattern Evidence: Comparing Shoe Prints
- Lesson 7: Researching Rodents: A Guinea Pig's Survival Needs
- Lesson 8: Following Colorful Clues: Making Orange Paint
- Lesson 9: Weighing the Evidence: Testing the Scales of Justice
- Lesson 10: Considering the Confession: Misunderstandings!

## Course Kit Options

Summer Camp Kit includes all the supplies to support a class of up to 30 students. Product# RRM600-SC, \$749



Classroom Kit includes all the essential supplies to support a class of up to 30 students. Product# RRM600-CR, \$399



Resupply Kit RRM600-RS \$159, Preprinted Student Books RRM600-SB-15 \$159 and RRM600-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, 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.