

Forensic Footwear Activities

Activity 3 - Forensic Photography



A crime scene photograph can be entered as evidence in a court of law. As such, it is very important that photographs taken at a crime scene are of a high quality, fully document the scene and that protocols regarding chain of custody are adhered to.

NB: When taking crime scene photographs you must NEVER delete any. This is because each image is numbered and all photographs taken in any case may have to be produced in court. Any missing could indicate evidence had been removed or tampered with, even if

this is not the case.

Task 1

Before you begin the other activities you should think of and note down three things that crime scene investigators need to do to ensure their photographs are credible in the court of law. If you're stuck, have a look at the additional information posters!

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

Task 2

Now time for a practical task! Take a camera and photograph a mock crime scene! This can be a room in your home, your entire house, your garden etc. Use any camera you have available, for example a camera on mobile phone, compact digital camera or a SLR camera.

Tips.

Your photographs should give you an overview of the entire scene. For example, if your crime scene is a room, you should take photographs from all four corners of the room. This shows the crime scene from different perspectives.

Photograph the individual elements in the crime scene. You may notice an item that looks out of place, get as close to the item as you can without compromising the area and photograph it. Do this for every suspicious element of your crime scene. Your photographs should be taken at 90° to prevent any distortion of the image.

Be careful as you walk around the crime scene. You don't want to disturb any evidence or to harm yourself!

Forensic Footwear Activities

Photographic Report and Shot Sheet

Reference No		
Taken by		
Date/Time taken		
Officer in case		
Offence		
Frame no.	Description of photographs	Album order

Forensic Footwear Activities

Task 3

Now photograph some footprints and footwear impression like we have done! A footprint is a mark left by someone not wearing any shoes and a footwear impression is a mark left by someone who has been wearing shoes.



Ensure you take the photographs with the scale ruler in the shot. The first photograph should be at a 90° angle to the impression, then take a range of shots from different angles

Tip: Vary the angle at which you take the photographs. See which angles work best! Also, take a photograph of something completely different like the sky to easily separate your sets of images once you get to the computer. This would not be done at a crime scene, but for practise work it makes things a little easier!

Have a look at your photographs and see if you can pick out some unique features, brand names or wear patterns as you have done before.