

Forensic Entomology

Use the website: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/crime-scene-creatures/interactive-determine-the-time-of-death/4390/>; or Google: "PBS forensic entomology".

1. What does the abbreviation PMI stand for? What does that mean?

Before clicking "Go to the crime scene", mouse over the tools to read more about them. Answer the following questions.

2. Explain the use for the following:
 - a. Trowel:
 - b. Hand net:
 - c. Thermometer:
 - d. Secure, Ventilated Jars:
 - e. Forceps:
 - f. Specimen jars with 70% ethyl alcohol:
 - g. Portable weather station:

Click "Go to the crime scene". After reading the information, click "Continue". To answer the following questions, you may have to do the activity more than once.

3. Which insects are pioneers and often appear within minutes? Does their presence mean the person is recently deceased? Why or why not?
4. What will develop within 4 days?
5. What will appear within a day and a half to prey on the larva?
6. What is the difference between adult flies and flies with crumpled wings? Which is a better source of evidence? Why?
7. Which insects don't help you determine the time of death?

Conclusion

8. What was the time of death? How did you determine it? Which insects were your best evidence?

