

Forensic Science Trivia Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Forensic Science Trivia trivia explores the scientific techniques used to analyze evidence and support criminal investigations, from fingerprinting and toxicology to DNA profiling. Rooted in centuries of evolving practice and transformed by modern laboratory methods, the field connects chemistry, biology, and criminal justice in ways that are both rigorous and unexpectedly fascinating. Expect a mix of easy, funny, and challenging facts that make a complex subject approachable.

HARD FORENSIC SCIENCE TRIVIA

1. In decomposition studies, what waxy postmortem substance is specifically associated with moist environments?

Answer: Adipocere

2. A firearms examiner notes caliber and the number of lands and grooves on a bullet. Those shared features are called what?

Answer: Class characteristics

3. Which U.S. DNA profile comparison system expands to Combined DNA Index System?

Answer: CODIS

4. Forensic genealogy surged into public view after the 2018 identification of which notorious offender?

Answer: The Golden State Killer

5. In GC-MS, which technique performs the separation step before compounds are identified by mass spectrometry?

Answer: Gas chromatography

6. Random microscopic marks from manufacture and wear on firearm evidence are known as what type of characteristics?

Answer: Individual characteristics

7. What postmortem change describes blood settling after death and producing discoloration in the body?

Answer: Livor mortis

8. Which laboratory method lets forensic analysts amplify tiny amounts of DNA before testing?

Answer: PCR

9. True or false: a presumptive blood test by itself provides the strongest identification of blood without any need for follow-up testing.?

Answer: False

10. Which DNA profiling approach focuses on short tandem repeats at multiple loci in nuclear DNA?

Answer: STR analysis

11. The 1923 evidentiary rule asking whether a scientific technique had achieved general acceptance is known by what name?

Answer: The Frye standard

12. Fingerprint examiners use ACE-V. What does the final letter stand for?

Answer: Verification

13. Which presumptive blood test is famous for a color change reaction?

Answer: The Kastle-Meyer test

14. An old-school toxicologist from the 19th century wants to detect arsenic. Which classic test fits that clue?

Answer: The Marsh test

FUNNY FORENSIC SCIENCE TRIVIA

1. Which specially trained dog is basically the least excited treasure hunter, because it searches for the odor of human decomposition?

Answer: A cadaver dog is trained to detect the odor of human decomposition.

2. What squirmy cluster can heat itself up enough to throw off insect-based estimates of time since death?

Answer: A maggot mass can generate heat that affects insect-based estimates of time since death.

3. When a shoe print is sitting in mud like it wants to be immortalized, what is often used to preserve it?

Answer: Casting material is often used to preserve footwear impressions found in soil or mud.

4. What field studies what happens to remains after death, including the environment's not-at-all-helpful effects?

Answer: Forensic taphonomy studies what happens to remains after death, including environmental effects.

5. A shoe impression can preserve tiny cuts and wear marks unique to a sole.?

Answer: True. Shoe impressions can preserve tiny cuts and wear marks unique to a sole.

6. The superglue used in fingerprint development belongs to the same chemical family as what common household adhesive?

Answer: It is in the same chemical family as cyanoacrylate adhesive.

7. What sticky evidence-collector is commonly used to pick up hairs and fibers from clothing or furniture, like a lint roller with a r^sum^?

Answer: Tape lifts are commonly used to collect hairs and fibers from clothing or furniture.

8. Which principle gets summarized as 'every contact leaves a trace,' the forensic version

of 'you touched it, you own it'?

Answer: Locard's principle.

9. In some drowning investigations, what microscopic algae might be examined instead of getting to enjoy a quiet little pond life?

Answer: Diatoms may be examined in some drowning investigations.

10. Warm outdoor conditions can make insect activity speed up what process, proving bugs are terrible at respecting a timeline?

Answer: Insect activity can accelerate skeletonization in warm outdoor conditions.

11. True or false: On TV, fingerprint powder is often black because drama loves contrast. In real casework, do examiners use only black powder?

Answer: False

12. Which water-focused forensic field studies organisms to help investigate drowning cases?

Answer: Forensic limnology studies organisms in water to help investigate drowning cases.

13. If a shallow toolmark is being shy in a photo, what kind of lighting can make it easier to photograph?

Answer: Oblique lighting can make shallow toolmarks easier to photograph.

FUN FORENSIC SCIENCE TRIVIA

1. Which British TV series is built around forensic pathology?

Answer: Silent Witness

2. What device lets an examiner play a side-by-side matching game with two bullets or casings?

Answer: A comparison microscope

3. Which once-popular courtroom evidence type later drew major criticism over reliability?

Answer: Bite-mark evidence

4. What standard fingerprint-development method sounds a bit like chemistry class and works on nonporous surfaces?

Answer: Cyanoacrylate fuming

5. In forensic entomology, what insect's eggs, larvae, and pupae may be found on remains?

Answer: Blowfly

6. Which specialty borrows excavation methods to recover buried evidence and remains?

Answer: Forensic archaeology

7. What technique often starts with a skull plus tissue-depth data to build a face?

Answer: Forensic facial reconstruction

8. If investigators compare soil from a crime scene with soil stuck to a suspect's shoe, what field are they using?

Answer: Forensic geology

9. Which branch of forensic science turns tiny pollen and spores into trace evidence?

Answer: Forensic palynology

10. Gunshot residue testing commonly looks for particles containing which trio of elements?

Answer: Lead, barium, and antimony

11. On many crime shows, what chemical gets the dramatic glow-up for revealing cleaned blood traces?

Answer: Luminol

12. Who is known for crime novels centered on forensic investigation?

Answer: Patricia Cornwell

13. What nickname is often used for postmortem CT scanning?

Answer: Virtual autopsy

FORENSIC SCIENCE FAMILY TRIVIA

1. What do you call a fingerprint that isn't immediately visible to the naked eye?

Answer: A latent fingerprint

2. Which specialist studies the size, shape, and distribution of bloodstains?

Answer: Bloodstain pattern analysis

3. True or false: Chain of custody is the documented record of who handled evidence and when.?

Answer: True

4. If a case involves bullets, cartridge cases, and firearms evidence, which field is being used?

Answer: Forensic ballistics

5. Which forensic field includes the analysis of handwriting and questioned signatures?

Answer: Forensic document examination

6. What branch of forensic science studies blood and other bodily fluids in legal cases?

Answer: Forensic serology

7. Who wrote one of the first major handbooks on criminal investigation in 1893?

Answer: Hans Gross

8. Which organization adopted fingerprinting in the early 20th century?

Answer: Scotland Yard

9. At which university is the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification located?

Answer: The University of Dundee

10. The University Center of Legal Medicine Lausanne-Geneva is based in which city and country?

Answer: Lausanne, Switzerland

11. Which kind of DNA is especially useful when nuclear DNA is degraded?

Answer: Mitochondrial DNA

12. What do forensic scientists call small materials like fibers, glass, paint, or gunshot residue?

Answer: Trace evidence

EASY FORENSIC SCIENCE TRIVIA

1. What does AFIS stand for in forensic work?

Answer: Automated Fingerprint Identification System

2. Which term means the body cools down after death?

Answer: Algor mortis

3. True or false: Rigor mortis is the postmortem stiffening of muscles.?

Answer: True

4. What kind of evidence is material exchanged between people or objects?

Answer: Transfer evidence

5. Which forensic specialist tests biological samples for drugs, alcohol, and poisons?

Answer: Forensic toxicologist

6. Who may compare dental records to help identify human remains?

Answer: Forensic odontologist

7. If investigators need electronic data recovered from a device, which specialist would handle it?

Answer: Digital forensics examiner

8. The FBI Laboratory is located in which Virginia community?

Answer: Quantico, Virginia

9. Interpol has its headquarters in what city and country?

Answer: Lyon, France

10. Who developed DNA fingerprinting in 1984?

Answer: Alec Jeffreys

11. Which forensic pioneer is linked with the exchange principle?

Answer: Edmond Locard

12. Mathieu Orfila is widely known by what title?

Answer: The father of forensic toxicology

13. In what year did Francis Galton publish an influential book on fingerprints?

Answer: 1892

Source: <https://triviagong.com/trivia/forensic-science-trivia-trivia>