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Activity: Media

Forensic entomology

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- consider the usefulness of insects as forensic evidence.

A. Using the link below, complete questions 1 to 13 that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIVKISCmjTQ&list=PLScgl9IJJBNWcf9952GtHZVKLp1ThQInN&index=1>

1. Why might insects be involved in a crime scene?
2. How does an entomologist help the pathologist working with a dead body?
3. How long does it take for a body to be colonised by insects?
4. What is the entomologist looking for on a body?
5. Why will insects leave the body?
6. Which insects get to a dead body first?
7. How do these insects detect a dead body?
8. Briefly describe the life cycle of the blowfly, including the timeframes for each stage in the cycle.
9. How do blowflies navigate to the body and then find the best place to lay their eggs?
10. What are the best places for egg-laying and why?
11. What do the heat images of the piglet show about the decomposition of the body?
12. What is the impact on decomposition of putting a body in a suitcase?
13. How do flies ensure that their eggs are still deposited in a suitcase?

B. Summarise how evidence about time of death is determined by insects on a body.