

Introduction: Crime scene investigation

Can you gather enough evidence to solve the crime?

Doing science is a bit like being a crime detective - you gather together pieces of evidence to solve a problem. Scientists do experiments to try and find some of the evidence. Data are the numbers and measurements you get from the test in a scientific experiment. Usually many experiments are needed to gather enough evidence to solve a scientific question or puzzle and even when you think you have found an answer it may not be the only answer to the question. Because solving science puzzles is difficult and often requires many different experiments you usually find that different scientists will work on the same question and do their own experiments. Sometimes, the data produced by an experiment can be used to answer more than one question, or may “accidentally” answer another question rather than the one the scientist was thinking of. This is why it is really important that scientists talk to each other and share the experiments they do and the data they produce.

In this activity we are going to gather some evidence from a crime scene - in much the same way a scientist may pull together different pieces of evidence. BUT - do we have enough evidence to solve the puzzle?