

Name _____ Pd _____ Date _____

CSI

DENTAL FORENSICS - Teeth Imprints Lab

Forensic dentists assist in crime solving by studying teeth and teeth impressions. Dental records are often used to identify people. Because teeth are one of the hardest substances in the human body, they are frequently well preserved. Dental x-rays or records showing fillings, position of teeth, etc. can help forensic dentists find a match of teeth to the individual. Eighty percent of the time teeth impressions are used to identify unknown victims.

As a forensic dentist you will have the chance to match teeth impressions to discover who took the bite?

All measurements taken are real and would be taken off an impression in real life.

[Use the teeth sheet](#) - make a chart for your teeth measurements

The procedures for making teeth impressions are:

1. Place a wedge of styrofoam into your mouth as far as possible.
2. Bite down on the foam firmly (not through it entirely) and then remove it.
3. Label the top and bottom wedges Top Teeth and Bottom Teeth.
4. Fill in with clay to get the impression
5. Study the teeth impressions. Count the number of teeth in the top and bottom impressions.

Answer:

1. Which teeth did you not get an impression of?

2. What other characteristics of the impressions do you notice?

3. Compare the top teeth impressions to the bottom. Are there teeth missing, spaces, chips, etc.?

Measurements:

Mouth width (side to side back teeth to back teeth)

Mouth depth (front teeth to the back of the impression)

*Please note - these will not be completely accurate because we did not get a full mouth impression

For individual teeth - measure the same tooth position top and bottom/left and right

Incisor measurements: LT (left top), LB(left bottom), RT(right top), RB(right bottom)

Bicuspids: LT , LB, RT, RB

Canines: LT, LB, RT, RB

Molars: LT, LB, RT, RB

Post Lab Questions

Write down *any characteristics* for **two** of another classmates unknown teeth molds.

** Include the tooth # measurements and identifying characteristic(s).

1.) Compare these impression measurements to your own measurements - are they different? By how much do they differ?

2.) Why are teeth the best means for identifying a decayed/burned bodies?

3.) How could this lab be improved? How did it enhance your learning?

4.) List 3-5 irregularities/differences in teeth that could help forensic scientists find a perpetrator.