

FORENSIC FUN (CSI CHALLENGE)

AN INSTANT MEETING FOR SPARKS
FROM THE BC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The CSI Challenge is designed to introduce forensic science to girls and Guiders. There are a wide variety of activities available in the CSI Challenge booklet, so if you want to change up an activity, please check it out for ideas. We have only selected a few for this meeting plan. If you think your girls would be interested in doing more forensic science, there are several activities in the booklet, including the plan for an entire mystery to be solved (great for a sleepover or camp). Doing all the activities in this Instant Meeting will earn Sparks the CSI Challenge crest.



**originally published in the June 2013 FunFinder.*

Meeting Plan

- 5-10 min: Gathering: Super Sleuth Maze
- 5 min: Spark Opening
- 5-10 min: Opening Discussion
- 10-15 min: Fingerprint Art Bookmark
- 20-30 min: What's That? Round Robin Activities
 - 5-10 min: What's That Noise?
 - 5-10 min: What's That Smell?
 - 5-10 min: What's That Texture?
- 5 min: Spark Closing

60 minute meeting. Approximate activity times shown.

Program Connections

**Exploring and
 Experimenting Keeper:**
 Additional Activity
CSI Challenge

Meeting Supplies

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> printed mazes | <input type="checkbox"/> a variety (10-15) of common items that make noise or a recording of common sounds | <input type="checkbox"/> opaque cups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pencils, crayons, markers | <input type="checkbox"/> a variety of common items with a strong - but not harmful or potent - scent | <input type="checkbox"/> cotton balls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cardstock cut to bookmark size | | <input type="checkbox"/> a variety of common items with distinct textures and/or shapes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> yarn for bookmark tail | | <input type="checkbox"/> tea towels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> non-toxic ink pad | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hole punch | | |

Gathering: Super Sleuth Maze

Directions

Download a variety of mazes from the internet:

<https://www.google.ca/search?q=printable+mazes>

Supplies

- printed mazes
- pencils, crayons, markers

Opening Discussion

Explain to the girls that you'll be working on the CSI Challenge. Ask them for ideas about what they think forensic science is and how it might be used in a broad context. Television shows often depict forensic science as a way to investigate violent crimes, but use this opening discussion to help the girls understand that forensic science is used to investigate other crimes, as well - from theft and art forgery to accounting fraud and cyber-crime.

Fingerprint Art Bookmark

Preparation for this craft will depend on the age level of girls. If needed, pre-cut and hole punch bookmarks.

Print some examples of fingerprint art for reference:

<https://www.google.ca/search?q=fingerprint+art&tbm=isch>

Directions

1. Press your thumb or finger onto an ink pad and then on to the bookmark.
2. Use markers, crayons or pencil crayons to add details to your fingerprint artwork.
3. When the decoration is finished, use the yarn to create a tassel for the bookmark. Encourage the girls to make a CSI-themed bookmark with examples.

Supplies

- cardstock cut to bookmark size
- yarn for bookmark tail
- non-toxic ink pad (washable makes for easier clean up, but permanent is better if you would like to colour on top of the prints)
- markers, crayons or pencil crayons
- hole punch

What's That Noise?

Directions

1. With the girls' backs turned so they can't see what is making the noise, start up each of the noise-makers in turn and ask them to identify what is making the sound.
2. To increase the difficulty, look for items that sound similar but not identical (jingling keys vs. a chain).

Supplies

- a variety (10-15) of common items that make noise or a recording of common sounds (examples: telephone, mixer, bell, computer keyboard, stapler, party noise maker, crinkling plastic, keys)

What's That Smell?

Directions

1. Place one item in each cup and cover with cotton balls so you can't see the item.
2. Then, ask girls to try and identify the item in each cup using only their sense of smell.

Supplies

- a variety of common items with a strong - but not harmful or potent - scent (examples: vanilla, chocolate, black and red licorice, lemon, coffee)
- opaque cups
- cotton balls

What's That Texture?

Directions

1. Place one item under each tea towel, so that it is hidden from view, and ask the girls to try and identify what is under the tea towel.
2. Again, using similar but not identical items might make it more difficult for older girls.

Supplies

- a variety of common items with distinct textures and/or shapes (examples: sandpaper, small distinctively shaped toys, baking supplies, fabrics, tinfoil)
- tea towels

Closing

After the round robin stations, gather the girls together and talk more about forensic science and let them know they've earned the CSI Challenge crest at this meeting. You may wish to ask them which part of "What's that" they found the hardest and what made it hard to identify.

Do your usual closing.