

At the Crime Scene

A crime has been committed! No one knows how it happened or who committed the crime. The police arrive at the crime scene. They have no obvious clues and no reliable witnesses.

A car pulls up and a team of forensic (fuh-REN-sik) investigators gets out. They are here to figure out what happened. They put on special suits. They put covers over their shoes so they do not contaminate (kuhn-TAM-uh-nate) the crime scene. They collect data, or clues. These clues are sometimes so tiny that they cannot be seen without special equipment.



When a crime is committed, the police hunt for clues. They hope to find the perpetrator (PER-puh-tray-tur). They might find a weapon or car used to commit the crime. Each clue the police find helps to reduce the number of suspects.

Forensic investigators do the same thing, but with different types of clues. They hunt for fingerprints and blood. They search for hairs, fibers, and even dirt. They figure out the best way to collect such data. Then they conduct tests with the data and analyze the results.

An investigator photographs a shoe print at a crime scene.



Forensic investigators collect evidence (EV-i-duhns) at the scene of a crime.

Forensic Science

Forensic investigators design data investigations to gather evidence and answer questions about a crime. Later, the investigators may show their evidence in a court of law.

What Investigators Need to Know

Crime scene investigators (CSIs) need to know more than just “who did it.” Investigators look at the 5 Ws. These are who, what, where, when, and why. They also look at H (how).

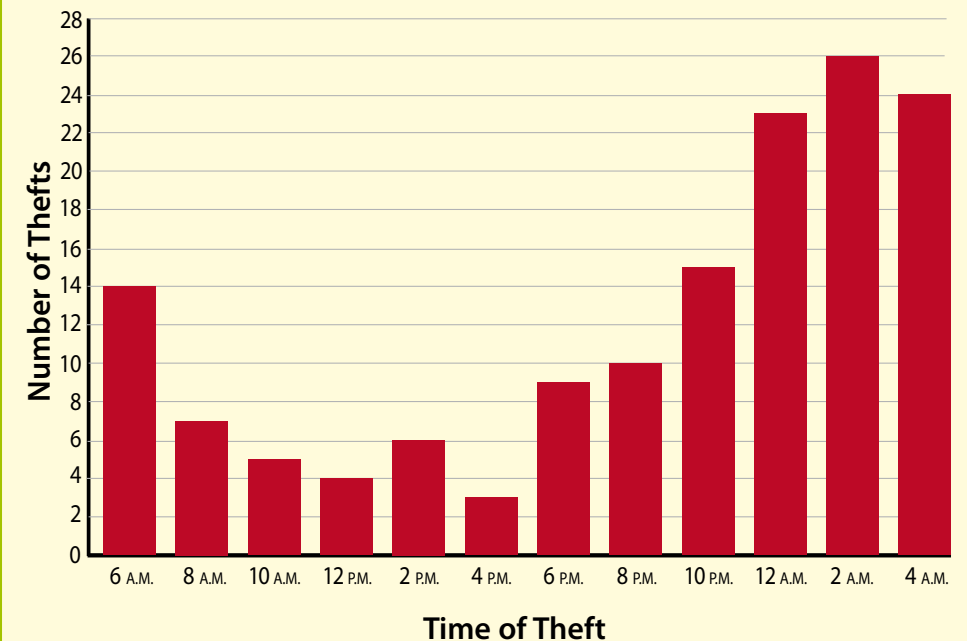
- **WHO:** This could include who the victim is, as well as who the perpetrator is.
- **WHAT:** This covers what happened.
- **WHERE:** This involves possible crime scenes, such as where the crime was committed. It also covers where a victim was found.
- **WHEN:** Knowing when a crime happened helps investigators. They can rule out suspects. Some suspects may have **alibis** (AL-uh-bys).
- **WHY:** Investigators need to know the reason why a crime happened.
- **How:** This covers how the perpetrator planned and carried out the crime.



LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Data about the time of day that car thefts took place has been collected. This helps investigators **predict** when these crimes are more likely to occur in the future. Use the data in the graph to answer the questions below.

Crookville Car Thefts



- At what time did the fewest number of car thefts occur?
- How many car thefts occurred at 8 A.M.?
- At what times do you think the most patrol cars should be sent out? Use the data to explain your answer.