

Name: _____ Period: _____

DO NOW: Complete the “Know” and “Want to know” part of the KWL Chart about POGO, the original Killer Clown.



K _{now}	W _{ant to know}	L _{earned}

Who is Pogo? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFLVA9RP634>

THE KILLER CLOWN:
JOHN WAYNE GACY

Forensic anthropology played a pivotal role in the investigation of one of America’s most notorious serial killers- John Wayne Gacy. Forensic anthropology and other forensic methods helped to identify 22 of Gacy’s 33 victims. Because skeletal remains were all that was left of many of Gacy’s victims, forensic anthropology played a key role in determining how they had been murdered.

In 1978, a 15-year-old named Robert Piest disappeared after work one day. His mother, who had come to pick up Robert from the pharmacy where he worked part-time, had been waiting for Robert when he told her that he was just going outside to talk to a man who had offered him a part-time job. After three hours of waiting, Mrs. Piest contacted the local police.



The man who had offered Robert a part-time job was a local contractor named **John Wayne Gacy**. When police went to Gacy's house to ask about the whereabouts of Robert Piest, Gacy denied having seen Robert. He told them he was unable to talk to them, as he had funeral details to attend to since a death had recently occurred in his family. Police asked Gacy to come to the police station later that day. Gacy was questioned several hours later and continued to deny having seen Robert Piest. When a background check of Gacy was done, it was discovered that he had a criminal record for sexually assaulting a teenager and that he was also awaiting trial on another charge of sexual assault. This led police to obtain a search warrant for Gacy's house.

1. What probable cause allowed police to obtain a search warrant to search Gacy's home?



When police initially conducted a search of Gacy's house they discovered a strong stench in the crawl space below his house. However, the ground in the crawl space looked untouched so it was assumed it was simply the smell of sewage. Police did find numerous suspicious items in Gacy's house, including two high school graduation rings, marijuana, handcuffs, two driver's licenses from two unknown males, police badges, and several articles of boys clothing. Then -

in the trunk of one of Gacy's vehicles – police found strands of hair matching that of Robert Piest.

2. What biological evidence did police find on Gacy's property?

3. What physical evidence did police find on Gacy's property?

Finally, after further intensive investigations, police discovered that one of the graduation rings found at Gacy's house belonged to a teenager who had disappeared over a year earlier. They also discovered that three former employees of Gacy had mysteriously disappeared within the last 5 years.

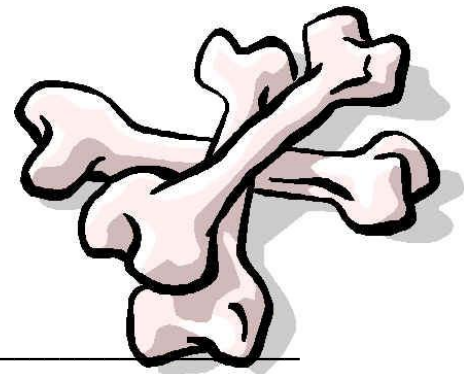
All of this evidence led Gacy to finally confess to police that he had killed someone; however, he initially claimed it had been in self-defense. Gacy told police they could find the body under his garage. Police did find a body under the garage, but also found numerous remains under the crawl space of Gacy's house. Gacy then confessed to killing Robert Piest and over 30 other young men.

The search for bodies at Gacy's house was organized much like an archaeological site since the excavation had to be carefully conducted to preserve the decomposing remains and to keep them organized as some of the bodies were piled on top of each other. On the first day of the search, two bodies were found in the crawl space. As time passed, twenty-six more bodies were discovered beneath the crawl space. Some victims were buried so close together that it was hypothesized that they were probably killed or buried at the same time. Gacy told police that he had on several occasions killed more than one person at a time.

4. Where did investigators find the bodies of Gacy's victims?

Bones Under Gacy's house:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8IHPq9VgWI>



6. What does it mean when bones fuse?

7. What bone stops growing at approximately age 28?

8. All the victim's collar bones were not fused yet. What can you conclude from this data?

Dr. Clyde Snow, a well-known forensic anthropologist, was hired to help identify victims that had been removed from Gacy's property. Dr. Snow used missing person reports to help him identify the unknown remains. For example, he identified one set of remains found at Gacy's property belonging to David Talsma using information from his missing person report. In December 1977, 19-year-old David had been reported missing. Records showed that David had fractured his left arm as a child. One set of remains from Gacy's property showed evidence of a fractured left arm that had healed. Also, the length of the remains matched David Talsma's height. The last observation that Dr. Snow used to identify these unknown remains was the fact that the left arm was several millimeters longer than the right arm and that the left scapula was slanted. Both of these observations enabled Dr. Snow to conclude that the remains belonged to a left-handed victim.



In the end, investigators used forensic anthropology techniques and dental records to identify all but nine of Gacy's victims. Gacy was found guilty and

convicted of 33 murders in 1980. After a long legal battle, John Wayne Gacy was executed by lethal injection in 1994.

9. Why was forensic anthropology used in the John Wayne Gacy criminal case?

10. What specific case brought John Wayne Gacy to the attention of the police?

11. Describe an example of how forensic anthropology was used in this case.

CBS: Chicago - New Images Of Unidentified John Wayne Gacy Victims Released

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmaUiuo44SA>

12. Explain how Gacy lived a double life in his community.

12. How did investigators identify victims like William Bundy and James Haakenson?

13. How many victims have still not been identified?

Closure: Return to the beginning of this lesson and complete the “Learned” section of the KWL chart. See if you can answer any of the questions you originally had.