**Shoe Print Lab**

**Pre Lab:**

1. Explain the difference between class and individual evidence.
2. Explain the difference between class and individual evidence as it pertains to shoeprints.

**Part 1:**

1. Look at the treads of your shoes and fill in any class characteristics that you see. Write your observations in data table 1.
2. Are there any individual characteristics that you observe? Write you observations in data table 1.

**Data Table 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Class characteristics** | **Individual Characteristics** |
|  |  |

**Part 2:**

*Last night someone broke into William Floyd High School through a window on the west side of the school and stole several computers. There was a shoe impression left in the dirt just outside the window. A cast of the shoe impression is at your lab station. Through the work of the WFHS forensics team it has been determined that one of the students in Mr. Palermo’s Forensics class committed the crime. Furthermore, the forensics team has narrowed down the list of suspects to 5 individuals. A copy of each suspect’s shoe print is at your lab station. Follow the procedures below to determine which suspect committed the crime.*

1. For each shoe print measure the shoe width and shoe length and record your measurements in data table 2.
2. Look at the tread pattern, wear marks, etc. to match one of the suspects to the crime scene impression. List all observations that you use to draw your conclusion in data table 2.

**Data Table 2:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SUSPECT** | **SHOE WIDTH**  **(cm)** | **SHOE LENGTH**  **(cm)** | **INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS** |
| Suspect 1 |  |  |  |
| Suspect 2 |  |  |  |
| Suspect 3 |  |  |  |
| Suspect 4 |  |  |  |
| Suspect 5 |  |  |  |
| **CRIME SCENE** |  |  |  |
| **CRIME SCENE**  **Picture 1** |  |  |  |
| **CRIME SCENE Picture 2** |  |  |  |

**Questions:**

1. What suspect committed the crime based upon the shoe evidence? Support your answer.
2. If you were presenting your finding in court, would your results be “consistent with” the suspect you identified (class evidence) or “a match” for the suspect (individual evidence)? Explain your answer.
3. In court, would the shoe impression evidence be considered circumstantial or direct evidence? Explain your answer.
4. Compare and contrast bite impressions and shoe impressions in terms of class and individual evidence.
5. Compare and contrast tire impressions and shoe impressions in terms of class and individual evidence.