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| **A Victorian Murder Mystery** |
| **Session Overview:**  This session is intended as part of a wider study on crime and punishment and can follow a visit to the West Midlands Police Museum.  The focus of this session is on problem solving using logic, science and a number of simple forensic techniques. |
| **Learning Objectives:** Learners will:   * Use a microscope to identify the origin of organic matter. * Understand and compare fingerprint examples. * Use logic to decipher a number of riddles. |
| **Curriculum Links:**   * (Sci) Pupils should be taught to describe how living things are classified into broad groups, based on similarities and differences. * (His) Pupils should be taught about an aspect or theme in British history that extends their chronological knowledge past 1066, such as changes in an aspect of social history, such as crime and punishment. * (His) Pupils should understand the methods of historical enquiry and understand concepts such as continuity and change. |
| **Session Content:**   * Introduce the crime, the available evidence and the challenge to solve the case, using the introductory PowerPoint presentation. * Introduce the officer and suspects in the case using the short, animated clips available on our website. * Solve each clue to find the evidence that identifies the culprit. A carousel of activities in small groups works well if there is enough adult support available in the room. * The fingerprint on the cupboard handle belongs to George Wilding. * Note: the white substance is a red herring. It is simply baking soda spilled from the kitchen. * Solutions to the riddles:   + - Remmu sehtni srewol fnus swor geh.   This is written backwards.  He grows sunflowers in the summer.   * + - 8 5 / 7 18 15 23 19 / 12 5 5 11 19 /1 14 4 / 16 15 20 1 20 15 5 19   One number represents the corresponding letter of the alphabet.  He grows leeks and potatoes.   * + - He has often tried gardening, but never succeeds. So now has a garden, that is just full of weeds.     - He grows elements in his garden:   Calcium, Boron, Boron, Silver and Einsteinium.  Also, Oxygen, Nickle, Oxygen, Nitrogen and Sulfur.  This can be solved using the periodic table of elements  CaBBAgEs and ONiONS.   * When all clues have been solved, draw the group back together and reveal the culprit. Each group should have identified that this is George Widing. |
| **Resources:**   * PowerPoint presentation (available to download). * Suspect profile packs. * Copies of the partial print lifted from the cupboard handle. * Magnifying glasses. * Samples of baking soda, white sugar, salt and corn starch. * Water, vinegar and iodine. * Microscopes. * Microscope slides, showing a range of organic matter and including potato starch. * Worksheets: apple evidence; test results and periodic table. |