



LCSI: Animal Mystery Post-Visit Activity Key

Read the description below of a hypothetical crime scene out in the rainforest. First, make an inference about what you think happened. Next, find a partner and work together to investigate the scenario. Make sure you both compare and communicate your findings with each other. If there's information you're both unsure of about a suspect, research it using reputable sources. Find a conclusion together as to what you think happened and state any observable evidence you have to support your conclusion.

The Crime Scene:

The victim was a Linnaeus's Two-Toed Sloth. The victim was found on the forest floor along the bank of the Amazon River. No footprints were found in the dirt surrounding the victim. The victim was whole with no signs of any bite marks. There was a fecal sample found at the scene that, after proper analysis, showed that whatever animal left it was an herbivore.

A few feet up the river from the location the victim was found, the trees above looked as if they had been disturbed. There were many leaves and tree branches scattered on the ground as well as floating in the water. Feathers were located in this area. The feathers are white to grey in color. After closer examination of the disturbed trees, a tuft of brown fur was found attached to one of the larger tree limbs. Early analysis shows that the fur is from a feline.

Sloths usually remain in the canopy layer of the rainforests of South America. However, they do come down to the forest floor to use the restroom or take a swim. Their first line of defense is camouflage and their slow movements.

The Suspects:

Anaconda

Anteater

Blue Morpho Butterfly

Brazilian Tapir

Capybara

Grizzly Bear

Harpy Eagle

Jaguar

Kinkajou

Ocelot

Piranha

Red-Eyed Tree Frog

Saltwater Crocodile

Scarlet Macaw

Squirrel Monkey

Tiger

Answers will vary as long as students can provide appropriate reasoning for the suspect the students found guilty. However, some of the animals listed are not native to the habitat or area where the crime was committed. These animals should be listed as not guilty.