

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

## Forensic Entomologist's Research Worksheet

Using the websites, answer the following questions as completely as possible.

### Definition of Forensic Entomology



1. What is the complete definition of forensic entomology?
2. In what three general areas can forensic entomology be used for legal investigations?
3. How might insects affect the interpretation of blood spatter pattern analysis?

### Estimating Time of Death

1. What two insects usually arrive first to a dead body (or corpse)?
2. Where on the corpse will a blow fly female lay her eggs?
3. What is another term for "time of death?"
4. What is theory behind estimating PMI?

\*\*You might want to remember this page as a good reference when examining evidence from your assigned case; it has specific information on the life cycle of a blow fly.

### Life Cycle of a Blow Fly

1. How long does it take the eggs of a female blow fly to hatch?
2. How can temperature affect the life cycle of a blow fly?

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3. How long, from the time the eggs are laid, to the time an adult blow fly is ready to leave the corpse?

#### Other Information Provided by Insects

1. What facts about insects can help determine if a corpse has been moved after death (postmortem movement)?
2. Where can scientists recover DNA from a victim or a suspect?
3. Tests can be run on insects found on corpses to determine if any drugs are/were present in the corpse. Why is toxicological analysis successful?

#### A Case Study

1. What circumstantial evidence pointed to the suspect?
2. What type of information was necessary for making an accurate prediction of time of death?
3. What was the final estimation of the postmortem interval?
4. What was the eventual result of the findings in the case? (Hint: What happened to the suspect?)

