Forensics - investigative learning activities

Introduction

We outline here a number of practical activities which are suitable for pupil investigations covering learning outcomes in the Science component of Environmental Studies at Attainment Levels E-F.

These activities complement those outlined in the SSERC Science & Technology News No. 35 published earlier this year. These were suitable for Levels A-D in Primary and the ones discussed here cover S1/S2 with added recognition of the principles enshrined in a Curriculum for Excellence:-
www.scienceeducation3-18.com/documents/cerv.pdf

What has been developed?

A number of discrete *Detective* activities have already been developed. These include forensic analysis techniques covering chromatography, hair, blood, DNA, chocolate, pollen, burglar alarms and soil (microscopes, vinegar, footprints, filtration and pH).

The teacher sets the scene where a 'crime' has been committed (Fig. 1) and the children then have to work cooperatively in groups to deduce "Who dunnit?"

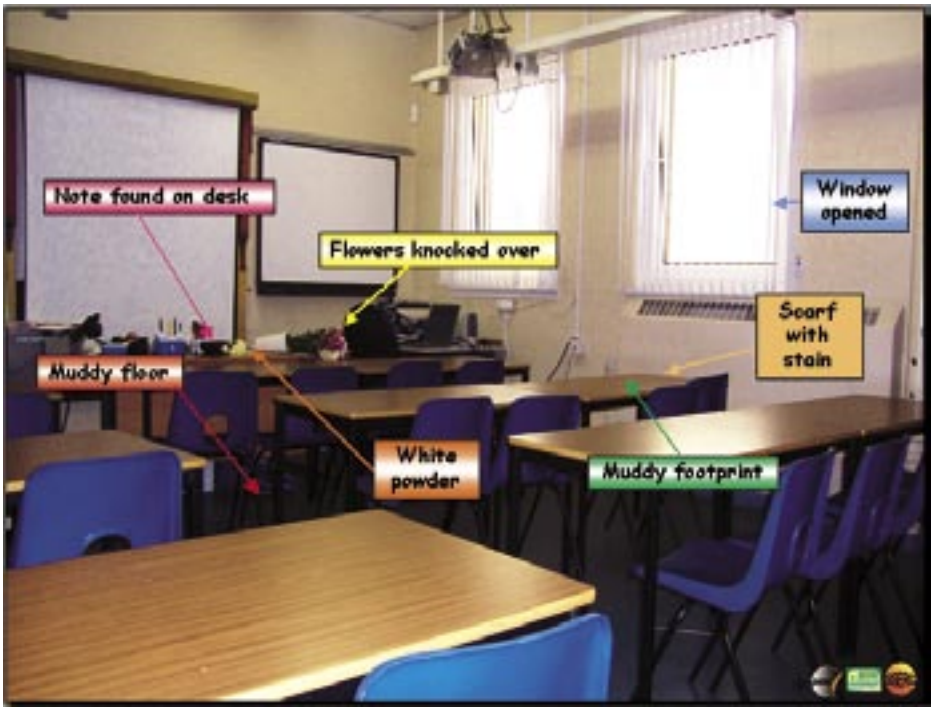

Figure 1 - Teacher sets the 'scene of crime' using Powerpoint slide or photograph.

Figure 2 - Front cover of the Detective pack containing all the techniques to find out "Who dunnit".

Here are a few screenshots showing some of the materials. Other activities under development include designing an ID card, fingerprints, DNA fingerprints and databases. For more information on all of this please e-mail Don Sutherland :

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