History of Forensic Science – Activity

The following events are highlights in the history of forensic science. Can you determine the order in which they appeared? Cut the strips apart and rearrange them in chronological order from top to bottom.

Arthur Conan Doyle publishes his first Sherlock Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet*.

Austrian Karl Landsteiner identifies human blood groups. He receives a Nobel Prize for this work.

CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) is used to make a match between the the DNA profile of a suspect and of a profile in the national database.

DNA profiling is used to identify Colin Pitchfork as the murderer of two girls in England and to exonerate someone previously suspected of the murder.

Dr. William Bass starts the Forensic Anthropology Center, otherwise known as "The Body Farm", at the University of Tennessee.

Edward Henry develops the prototype fingerprint classification system now used in Europe and the United States.

For the first time, a murderer is convicted in the United States based on dental evidence.

James Watson and Francis Crick discover the DNA double helix.

President Theodore Roosevelt establishes the FBI.

Scotland Yard, London's detective force, is the first to use bullet comparison to catch a murderer.

The Chinese book *Hsi Duan Yu* describes how to distinguish a drowning victim from one who has been strangled. Also mentioned in a stabbing solved by observing flies attracted to blood on the killer's sickle.

The first documented case of physical matching occurs when an Englishman is convicted of murder because the torn edge of a wad of newspaper in a pistol matches a piece remaining in his pocket.

The first high-powered microscope is constructed by Anton Van Leeuwenhoek of Holland

The first lie detector is built by John Larson, a University of California medical student.

The term serial killer is first used to describe a killer who kills repeatedly and obsessively, on separate occasions.