**Sock Lab** Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_pd\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Objectives:**

*By the end of this activity, you will be able to:*

1. Collect and identify trace evidence
2. Illustrate proper documentation of data
3. Identify individual and class characteristics of the socks

**Materials:**

Pair of clean, white socks latex gloves

Brown paper bag scissors

Transparent tape plain white paper

Permanent marker forceps

Hand lens

**Procedure:**

**Day 1:**

1. At home, wear a pair of clean, white socks around the house for a couple of hours. Choose a time when you are likely to be moving around inside the house quite a bit rather than when you plan to be sitting still for a long period of time. Take care not to walk in anything wet and do not walk outside.
2. Carefully take off the socks and place them in a brown paper bag (the evidence bag). Be very careful not to lose any of the trace evidence.
3. Seal the bag with tape. Write your name, the date the “item of evidence,” and where it was “collected” on the outside of the bag across the seal.
4. Give the “evidence bag” to your teacher.

**Day 2:**

1. Put on a pair of latex gloves. Use scissors to carefully open the evidence bag without breaking the seal.
2. Remove the socks and lay them out over a piece of paper.
3. Before removing anything from the socks, observe and record any visible evidence (See example Data Table ).
4. Examine the socks for any obvious wear patters. Note the size of the socks.
5. Using forceps and/or transparent tape, remove hairs, fibers, and particulate matter from the socks. Record your findings.
6. Using a hand lens, look at the trace evidence found on the socks. Draw what you see.
7. Repackage the evidence and make the necessary notations on the bag.

Example Data Table

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Description/Drawing** |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Questions:**

1. Why are you required to wear gloves to handle the evidence?
2. Why was it necessary to lay the socks on paper before processing them for evidence?
3. Do the socks you examined belong to a make or female? How do you know?
4. What can you assume about the person to whom the socks belong?
5. What is the purpose of the written notations on the bag?

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