

# **World War I** **Assassination**

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History's Mysteries—Solve the Crime of the Time



### **About the author**

Felicia T. Perez, author of *History's Mysteries*, graduated with a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara and holds a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction. She has been a teacher of social studies at the high school level since 1999 (Los Angeles Senior High). In 2006, Felicia was recognized as one of "L.A.'s Most Inspirational Teachers" and received the United Teachers of Los Angeles "Unsung Hero Award."

She has helped develop her school's Small Learning Communities and worked closely with 826 LA Foundation to advance innovative approaches in social studies. Prior to going into teaching, Felicia worked for community civil rights organizations in California.

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10200 Jefferson Blvd • P.O. Box 802 • Culver City, CA 90232

Phone: (800) 359-0961 • [www.teachinteract.com](http://www.teachinteract.com)

ISBN# 978-1-56004-573-1

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# WELCOME TO WORLD WAR I ASSASSINATION!

In this hands-on investigative activity, students are given an authentic task: to think like criminalists and review mock forensic files of a historical event. Students gather, analyze, and interpret evidence, engaging in tasks such as examining physical objects (e.g., a model of a guillotine, bullets, a blood-spattered uniform), poring over photographs, analyzing documents, and reading maps and charts. A PowerPoint® presentation includes an introduction to the task, a coroner's report, and several types of sources from the "crime scene." Students then fill out a "forensic report" graphic organizer, hypothesize how the event took place, and conclude by reading a "Mystery Solved" handout that provides historical background on the "crime." Optional extension activities include having students create a "breaking news" TV report, write a front-page newspaper article, or compose a "news alert" text message. Grades 6–12.



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## Purpose and Overview

### Activity Introduction

Welcome to *History's Mysteries: Solve the Crime of the Time*. Included are investigative case files that cover some of the main areas of world history standards-based curriculum. The central purpose of these files is to spark interest and excitement in students for further study of a given unit.

A History Mystery is rooted in having students act like a criminalist whose job is to gather, analyze, and interpret forensic evidence. Real-life criminalists are skilled in studying everyday items, examining bullets, and analyzing documents. Likewise, in a history class a teacher's job is to help students develop critical thinking skills also based in gathering, analyzing and interpreting data.

In this hands-on investigative activity, students are given an authentic task—to think like criminalists and review mock forensic files of a historical event. Each file contains primary and secondary source replica/realia that students analyze in order to hypothesize how a given event took place.

This activity works best as an introduction to a world history unit, but it may also be used as a way to review before a DBQ based assessment at the end of a unit. Students are motivated to solve each Mystery both with accuracy and speed as the first student/team to do so correctly wins a "Criminalist of the Year" nameplate for classroom display.

### How does a History Mystery work?

Students are given the task of reviewing a historical event case file and filling out a Forensic Report. Once this initial step is completed, students then read a **Mystery Solved: Press Release** that reveals all the accurate details of the real life History Mystery.

Each *History's Mysteries Case File* review and **Forensic Report** are completed in a single (60 minute) class session. The follow up **Mystery Solved: Press Release** reading and follow up activities (**Front Page News, Breaking News Report, or Text Message News Alert**) can take another half to full one hour class period.

Each unit comes with reproducible student analysis sheets, teacher directions, student directions, CD-ROM that allows students to view the files on a computer (or the entire class with an LCD projector).



#### Teaching tip

For more scaffolding and challenge to the activity, you can also add a step where students work on a **Front Page News Article, Breaking News Report, or a Text Message News Alert** in which students further synthesize what they believed took place in either an essay, short skit, or short summary form (for better language mastery, beginner or advanced writing skills, ELL and/or AP Students).



What event is central to  
World War I?





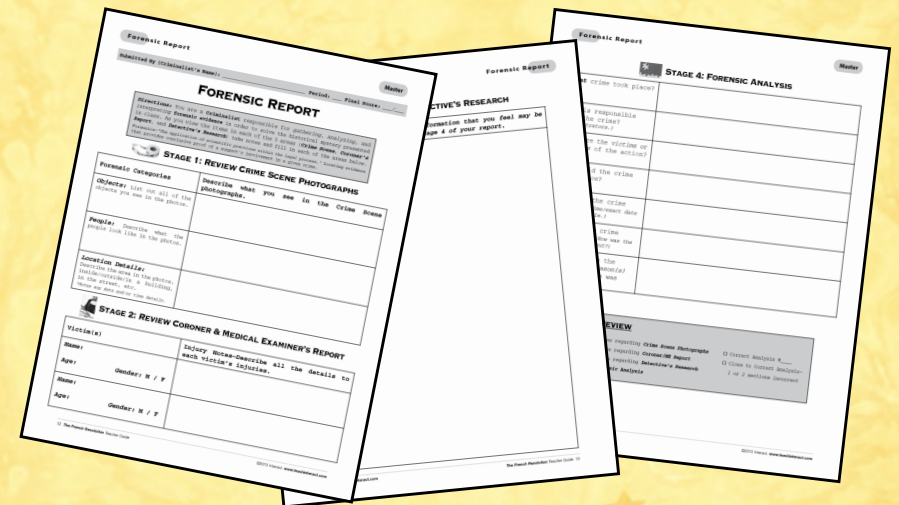
# HOW DO I SOLVE THIS MYSTERY?

In order to solve a History Mystery you will need to have a **Forensic Report**, a **Mystery File**, a pen/pencil, and a open mind.

Before you begin, let's take a moment to review all the sections of the **Forensic Report** so that you are familiar with all the areas of the file and what you need to do.

Keep in mind that as you review the items in the file, you are acting as if you are a **Criminalist** responsible for gathering, analyzing, and interpreting forensic evidence.

These actions are key to helping you solve the historical mystery presented in class. Good Luck!t





# HOW DO I FILL OUT THE REPORT?

- As you view the items in each of the three areas (***Crime Scene***, ***Coroner's Report***, and ***Detective's Research***) take notes and fill in each of the areas on the Forensic Report.
- Pay close attention to which office is reporting information and ***match the photos on your file with the photo on your report*** when you are writing in your information.
- For example, if you see the symbol for the ***Crime Scene*** office on the top of the file page you may use that information to answer the questions about the ***Crime Scene*** in your **Forensics Report**.



**Forensic Report** Master

Submitted By (Criminalist's Name): \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_ Final Score: \_\_\_\_

## FORENSIC REPORT

**Directions:** You are a **Criminalist** responsible for gathering, analyzing, and interpreting **forensic evidence** in order to solve the historical mystery presented in class. As you view the items in each of the 3 areas (***Crime Scene***, ***Coroner's Report***, and ***Detective's Research***) take notes and fill in each of the areas below. **Remember:** "The application of scientific practices within the legal process." Locating evidence that provides conclusive proof of a suspect's involvement in a given crime.

### STAGE 1: REVIEW CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHS

Forensic Categories	Describe what you see in the Crime Scene photographs.
<b>Objects:</b> List out all of the objects you see in the photos.	
<b>People:</b> Describe what the people look like in the photos.	
<b>Location Details:</b> Describe the area in the photos, inside/outside/in a building, in the street, etc. <small>Write any date and/or time details.</small>	

### STAGE 2: REVIEW CORONER & MEDICAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

Victim(s)	Injury Notes-Describe all the details to each victim's injuries.
<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Age:</b> <b>Gender:</b> M / F	
<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Age:</b> <b>Gender:</b> M / F	

1) The French Revolution Teacher Guide ©2010 Internet. www.teachinternet.com



# FORENSIC REPORT SECTIONS



- If you are looking at notes and photos about the **Crime Scene**, they will be marked with a photo of *caution tape*.
- Fill in your report sheet for this section by writing in notes about all the objects, people, and location details that you see.



## STAGE 1: REVIEW CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHS

Forensic Categories	Describe what you see in the Crime Scene photographs.
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