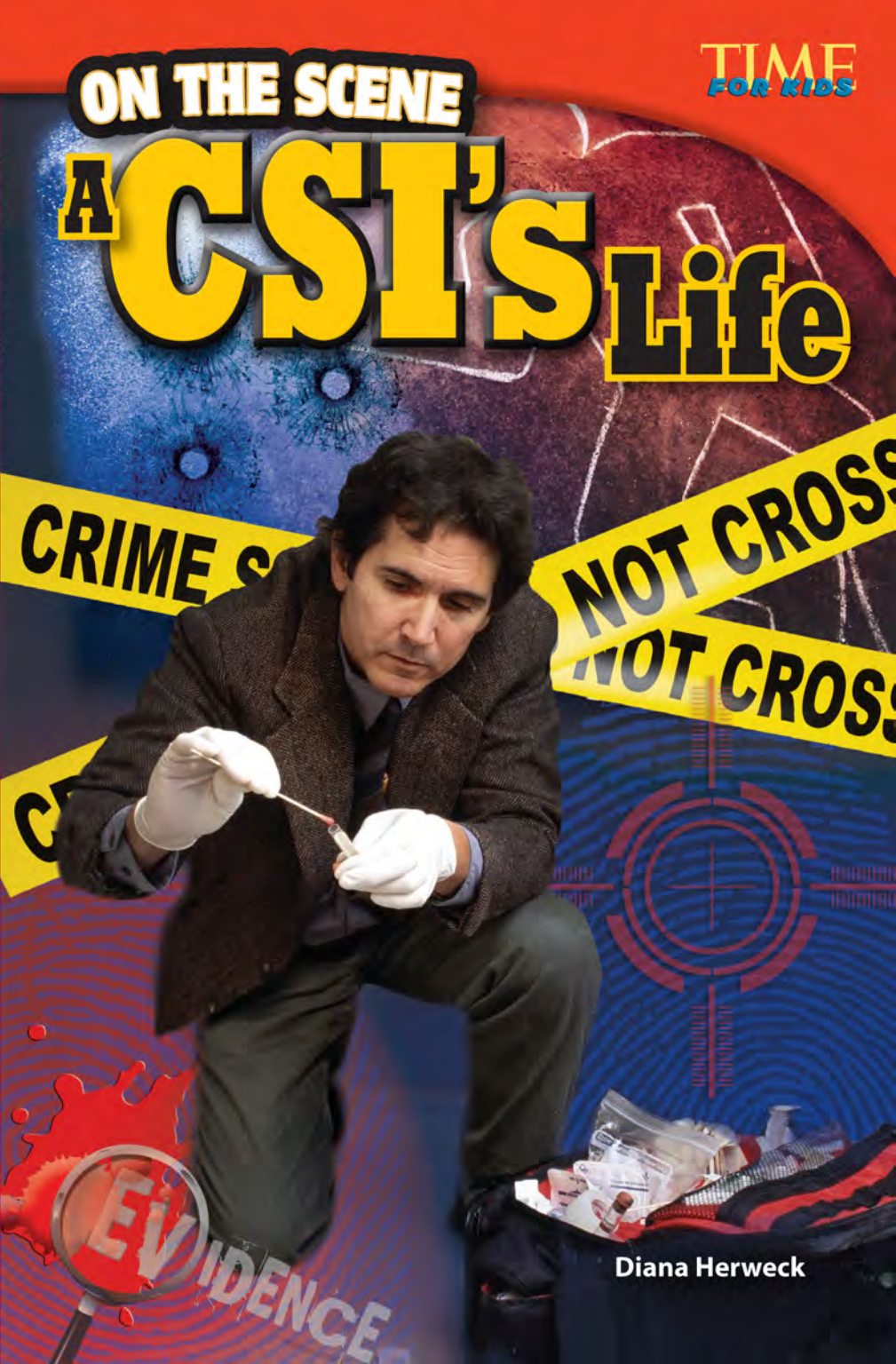
TIME FOR KIDS

ON THE SCENE

A CSI's Life



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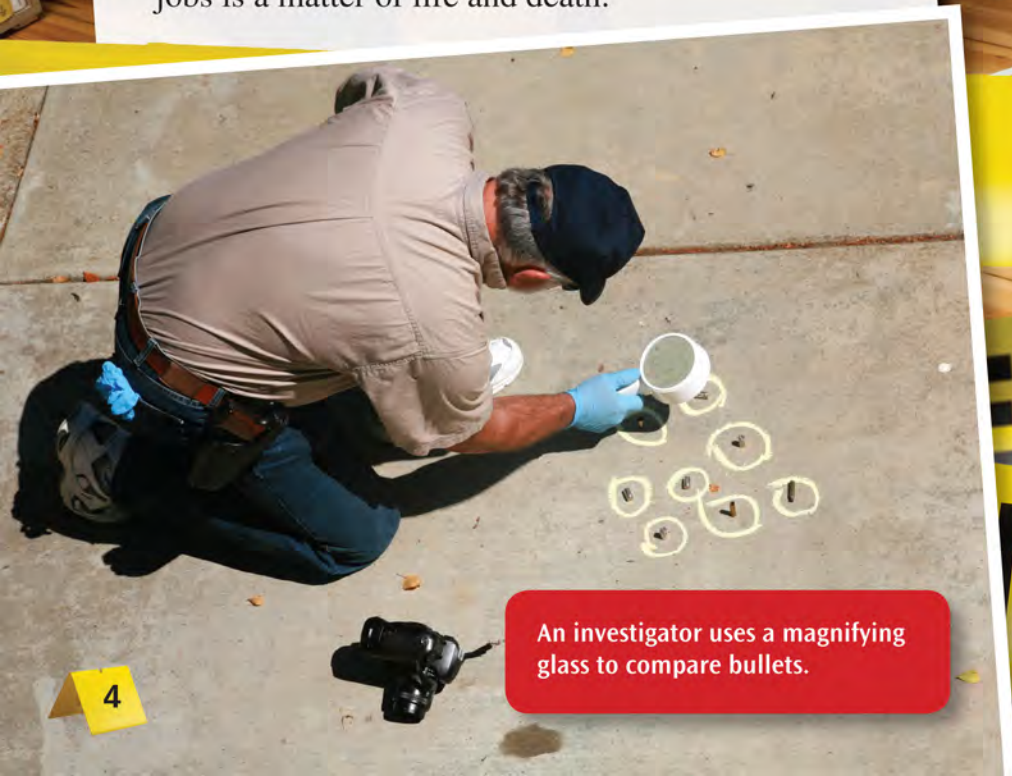
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On the Scene

The house is covered in blood. A body is floating out back in the swimming pool. Was it an accident or **foul play**? When did this happen? And who is responsible? Where should investigators start?

Those are the questions **crime scene investigators** (CSIs) must answer. CSIs study crime scenes. They collect **evidence** to find out what happened. It's just like on a TV show, but this is real. And the science they use to do their jobs is a matter of life and death.



An investigator uses a magnifying glass to compare bullets.

THINK LINK

Imagine you are a CSI.

- What skills would you need to succeed?
- How would you solve a crime?
- Why do you think this job is so important?

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Traces of Evidence

When someone commits a crime—however big or small—there are traces of evidence. Even a simple crime, such as stealing a cookie, leaves clues behind. Most criminals try to avoid leaving signs of their work. But evidence can be so small it's nearly invisible. The average person won't see it, but a CSI knows exactly where to look.

CSIs look for many types of evidence. Basic marks like fingerprints, mud, lipstick, and ink can give clues about the crime. **Fibers** from plants, hair, clothes, and furniture can be traced to the scene of the crime, too. CSIs even search for patterns in mud. One footprint can lead them to the **perpetrator** (PUR-pi-trey-ter).



CIVILIAN CRIME FIGHTERS

Most CSIs are **civilians**. This means they might not carry guns. They don't arrest people or give tickets. They help police officers and detectives solve crimes. But they are not police officers.



Photographs provide a permanent record of a crime scene and the evidence.







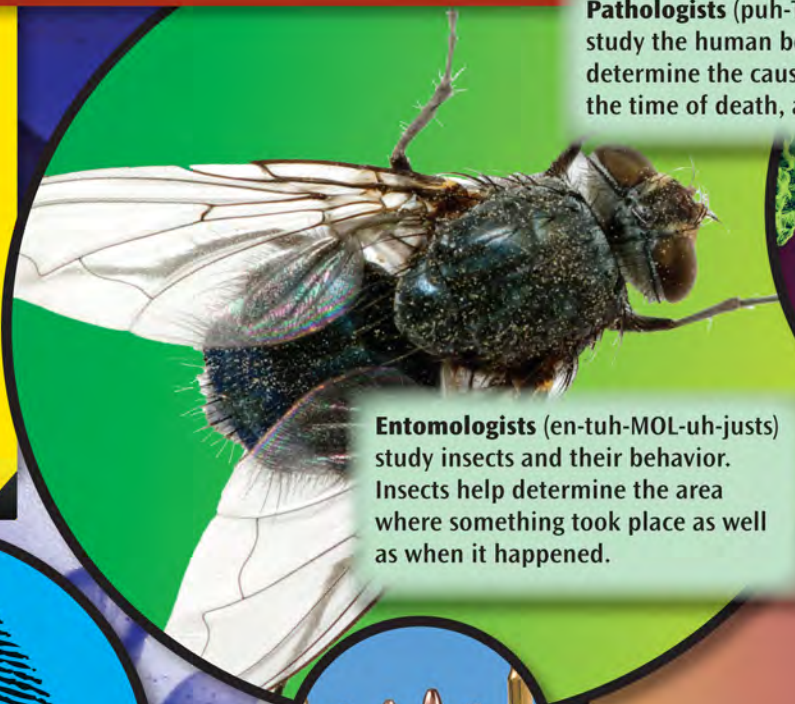
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DIG DEEPER!

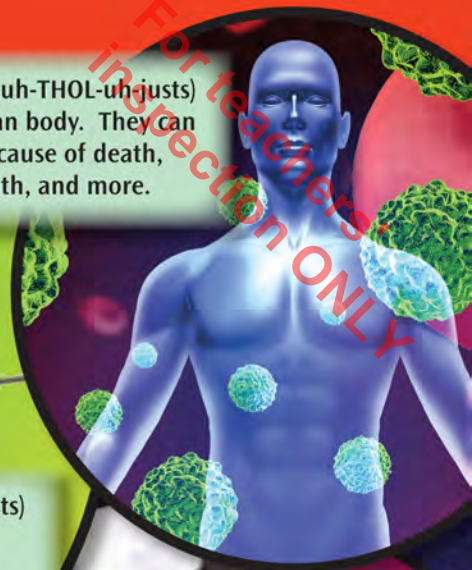
Extreme Experts

There are many ways to solve a crime. That's why CSI teams are made up of many specialists. Depending on the crime, different specialists will be called in to help.

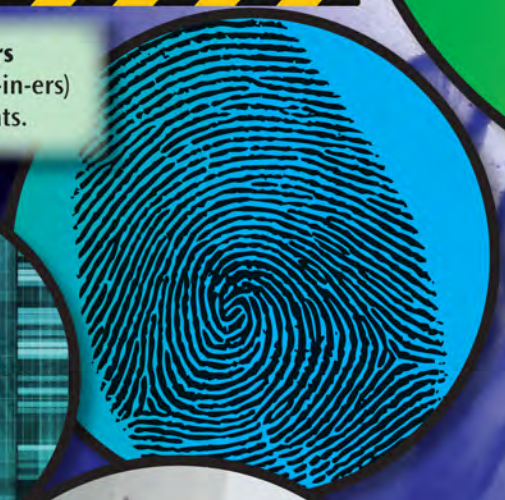


Entomologists (en-tuh-MOL-uh-justs) study insects and their behavior. Insects help determine the area where something took place as well as when it happened.

Pathologists (puh-THOL-uh-justs) study the human body. They can determine the cause of death, the time of death, and more.



Latent print examiners (LEYT-nt PRINT ig-ZAM-in-ers) specialize in fingerprints.



Some scientists specialize in finding **DNA** matches.





Some CSIs are **ballistics** (buh-LIS-tiks) experts. They study guns and bullets.



Forensic (fuh-REN-sik) **photographers** take pictures of evidence.



Odontologists (oh-don-TOL-uh-justs) can identify a body by its teeth. This can be helpful if there is damage to the other parts of the body.



Forensic artists listen to **witnesses** and review evidence. They use clues to draw a picture of the people who commit crimes so police officers can look for them.