**DETECTIVE LAB**

# SECTION 10: ON YOUR OWN

From *Science in a Nutshell*

# OBJECTIVE:

To solve mysteries on your own.

# MATERIALS:

all the materials in this kit Journal Page for Activity 10 notepad

**Westminster College**

# BACKGROUND:

Congratulations on developing your detective skills! You can now begin to solve mysteries of your own. This activity provides you with some ideas for mysteries you can try to solve. Apply all of the scientific techniques and detective skills that you have learned.

# EXPERIMENT:

1. Set-up or stage several of the Mysteries to Solve with your friends. Then try to solve each one using the detective skills you have learned.
2. Start a detective notepad to keep notes of how you solve each mystery.
3. On your Journal page for Activity 10, describe your mystery. Draw the scene and name the people involved.
4. Have fun creating and solving your own mysteries with your family and friends.

 *ON YOUR OWN*

MYSTERIES TO SOLVE

Who used your hairbrush or comb?

Who wrote the unsigned note left on your desk? Which pen or marker was used? Who tracked the dirt into the house without wiping their feet?

Who turned the bathroom light on and forgot to shut it off? Who put their hands on the mirror?

Who squeezed the toothpaste tube in the middle?

Without looking at the labels on your clothing, can you identify which fabrics are natural and which are man-made?

Who used a glass and left it on the table?

Which kind of cookies were eating as a snack? Examine crumbs left on a plate.

# IN A NUTSHELL:

Detectives keep accurate notes of evidence found at crime scenes and of laboratory tests performed to help piece clues together to solve crimes.

# CRACKING THE NUT:

Research how new techniques, such as DNA fingerprinting, are used for identification purposes by police laboratories.