

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Last Picnic

Objective: Use deductive reasoning to decide who committed the murder.

Background:

Carrollton police discovered the body of a 26-year-old white male (later identified as Matt Thomas) in an open field of sunflowers about five miles outside of downtown Carrollton. Mr. Thomas' body was discovered at 10:32pm Friday night, September 5th. He was found lying face-up on a yellow twin sheet. According to the coroner's report, one fatal gunshot to the back of the head ended his life. Scientists estimate that death occurred about 7:45pm. The following notes were taken by the investigators at the scene:

- Paper plates with partially eaten sandwiches, chips, and chocolate cake were located near the body
- A bottle of white wine and two partially filled glasses of wine were found next to the yellow sheet
- One of the glasses had a smudge of pink lipstick on the rim
- Footprints from the road to the field were those of a male, size 11 and a female, size 6. The only footprints from the field back to the road were those of a female, size 6
- Car tracks of the same wheel base and tread as those on Mr. Thomas' automobile were found at the road. The car was not found at the scene
- Later that same night Mr. Thomas' car was found abandoned in a parking lot in downtown Carrollton

Investigators believe that a female friend of Matt Thomas was responsible for his death. After questioning family and friends, it was discovered that the deceased had frequent social outings with six women who live in or near Carrollton. The women's names are Anna, Evelyn, Stephanie, Kaitlyn, Alexa, and Sabrina.

In this activity you will answer these questions: Who was responsible for the murder? What events surrounded the murder?

Procedure:

1. After reading the background information, record some important pieces of information in Data Table 1
2. Read the special notes below that the police gathered during their investigation:
 - Kaitlyn works full time as a cosmetologist
 - Alexa and Stephanie are school teachers
 - Sabrina and Alexa live together in a two-bedroom apartment downtown
 - Stephanie lives in a nearby town called Lewisville
 - Anna lives in the country, about 10 miles west of Carrollton
 - Alexa and Kaitlyn are very petite women – they wear size 4 jeans
 - Kaitlyn works part-time as a fitness instructor at a health club in Carrollton. She teaches a 7:30pm class each Friday night and has not missed a class in two years
 - Sabrina is deathly allergic to grapes

- 4) Write a two paragraph story that describes what you believe happened on the night of the murder. Explain how the couple got to the field, why they went, what happened while they were there, and how the murderer escaped. What was her motive?

Data Table 1:

Question	Answer
Description and location of where the body was found	
Approximate time and day of death	
Weapon used to inflict the fatal wound	
Description of evidence impressions at the crime scene	
Description of objects found at the crime scene	
Any other evidence that may help solve the crime	