

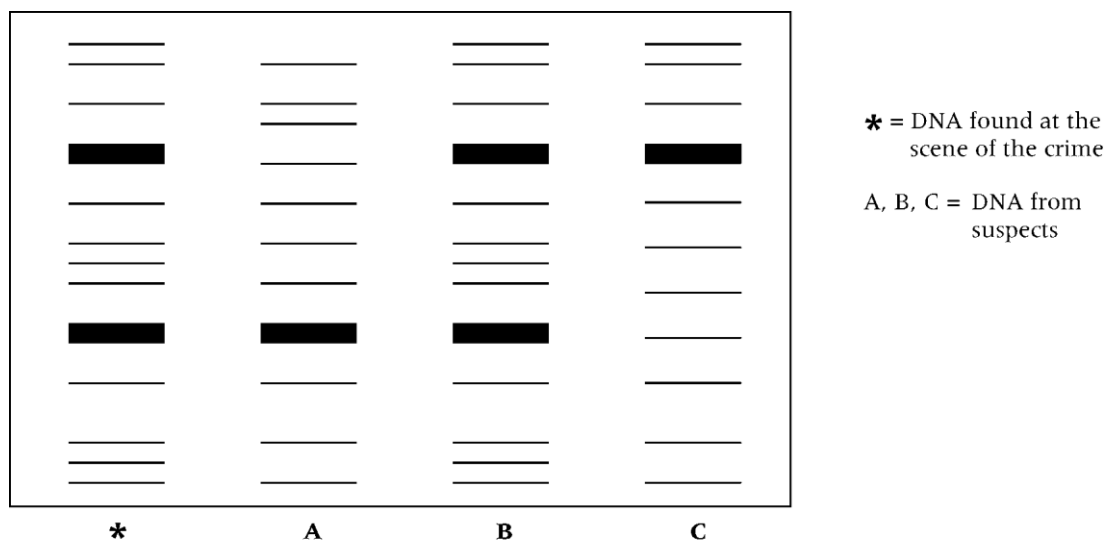


Forensic evidence



In 1984, Professor Alec Jeffreys of Leicester University invented a new method to identify a suspect in police investigations. Criminals often leave hairs or sweat or blood at the scene of a crime. Cells in our bodies contain a chemical called DNA, and scientists can use a method known as 'DNA fingerprinting' to compare DNA from a suspect with DNA from materials left at the scene of a crime. The chemicals found at the scene of the crime could have come from the body of the suspect or they might have come from someone else who has yet to be found.

The technique can be used to identify people who were at the scene of a crime. DNA fingerprinting is a type of chromatography.



The diagram above shows the result for several suspects.

Remember that the pattern from the suspect must be the same as the pattern from the scene of the crime if the suspect was the person who left the evidence.

Look at the pattern very carefully and answer the following questions.

- 1 Which suspect, Person A, B or C, was the one who left the chemicals at the scene of the crime?
- 2 What does this tell you about the other two suspects? Explain how you know this.
- 3 Do you know who committed the crime? Explain your answer.