

## **Forensic Anthropology Vocabulary**

**Forensic anthropology:** the examination of human remains to establish their identity and help determine the cause of death

**Trauma:** A physical injury or wound caused by an external force of violence, which may cause death or permanent disability. Trauma is also used to describe severe emotional or psychological shock or distress.

**Odontologist:** One who practices the science of teeth.

**Autopsy:** the internal and external examination of a body after death performed to confirm or determine the cause of death and establish other pre-death conditions

**DNA:** deoxyribonucleic acid, occurring in the form of double-helix strands, DNA contains genetic code, in each individual. Identical DNA occurs in the nucleus of every cell and serves to define that individual's characteristics, often, an individual's DNA appears in the blood and other bodily fluids

**Ballistics:** the study of the motion of bullets and their examination for distinctive characteristics after being fired and using evidence to match bullets or bullet fragments to specific weapons

**Pathology:** the science or the study of the origin, nature, and course of diseases.

**Case Study:** the study of an individual person especially in order to compare to a larger group

**Decedent:** a deceased person

**CT-Scan:** an x-ray image performed with a CAT scanner

**Resin:** any of a large class of synthetic products that have some of the physical properties of natural resins but are different chemically and are used chiefly in plastics

**Fiber Analysis:** a method of identifying and examining fibers used by law enforcement agencies around the world to procure evidence during an investigation

**Sutures:** a joining of the lips or edges of a wound or the like by stitching or some similar process.

**Diaphysis:** the shaft of a long bone.

**Ossification:** A three-stage process by which bone is formed. The first step is the formation of a mesh of collagen fibers. Next, the body produces a "cement" substance (polysaccharide). Finally, small crystals of calcium salts are deposited into the cement to form bone.

**Dentition:** the makeup of a set of teeth including their kind, number, and arrangement.

**Deciduous Teeth:** baby teeth

**Puberty:** the beginning of adolescence and sexual maturity

Gracile: slender or thin

Cranium: the part of the skull that encloses the brain.

Ocular Orbits: the eye sockets

Residue: Matter that remains after something has been removed.

Adipocere: a waxy substance formed during decomposition of dead bodies