



FORENSIC DNA FINGERPRINTING

MASS DISASTERS- IDENTIFYING VICTIMS



September 11, 2001



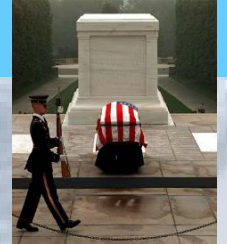
Crash of TWA Flight 800

OUR CHROMOSOMES ARE A "DNA FINGERPRINT"

Human DNA is very similar from person to person. But, we all have areas of our DNA that vary slightly among individuals. These "variable" regions of repeating nucleotide bases have been identified by scientists and the differences between them are used to make very accurate distinctions among people. There are 13 variable regions that are used in forensic investigations. Here are some ways in which DNA Fingerprinting is used to answer questions.

HUMAN IDENTIFICATION - COMFORT FOR FAMILIES

Tomb of the Unknown, Washington, DC



CRIMINAL CASES - DETERMINING GUILT OR INNOCENCE



OJ Simpson Trial



Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky

PATERNITY CASES- WHO'S THE FATHER?



Anna Nicole Smith Paternity Case



INNOCENCE PROJECT- EXONERATING THE WRONGLY ACCUSED



On August 3, 2005, Luis Diaz was released from Florida prison after serving 25 years for crimes he did not commit. Diaz was convicted in 1980 as the "Bird Road Rapist." Between 1977 and 1979, over 25 women were attacked in the Bird Road area of Coral Gables, Florida. Many were sexually assaulted after being stopped in their cars. After a highly publicized investigation, Diaz was arrested and charged with 8 rapes attributed to the Bird Road Rapist. In 2005, after 25 years of protesting his innocence, postconviction DNA testing provided powerful proof that Luis Diaz was wrongly convicted.

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS - INVESTIGATING GENOCIDE



Rwandan genocide skulls

WILDLIFE CRIME- CATCHING POACHERS



Used to identify the species or subspecies from pieces or products of an animal. Try to determine the cause-of-death of an animal. To identify and compare physical evidence in an attempt to link suspect, victim and crime scene.