CSI: Botany

Karen Romanyk

University of Alberta, Biological Sciences, CW 405, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB CAN T6G 2E9 (romanyk@ualberta.ca)

The potential use of plants in crime scene investigations is demonstrated in a mini CSI activity to supplement any basic plant anatomy lab that includes secondary xylem. As crime scene investigators, students are presented with a scenario requiring the application of skilled botanical knowledge. This activity allows the students, using information they have acquired from the anatomy lab they have just completed, to distinguish between angiosperm and conifer wood, to recognize different wood cuts and to recognize different types of wood cells. This activity reinforces the information presented in lab and provides students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge.

Link to Original Poster: http://www.ableweb.org/volumes/vol-33/poster?art=52

Mission, Review Process & Disclaimer

The Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE) was founded in 1979 to promote information exchange among university and college educators actively concerned with biology learning and teaching in a laboratory setting. The focus of ABLE is to improve the undergraduate biology laboratory experience by promoting the development and dissemination of interesting, innovative, and reliable laboratory exercises. For more information about ABLE, please visit http://www.ableweb.org/

Papers published in Tested Studies for Laboratory Teaching: Proceedings of the Conference of the Association for Biology Laboratory Education are evaluated and selected by a committee prior to presentation at the conference, peer-reviewed by participants at the conference, and edited by members of the ABLE Editorial Board.

Citing This Article


Compilation © 2012 by the Association for Biology Laboratory Education, ISBN 1-890444-15-4. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

ABLE strongly encourages individuals to use the exercises in this proceedings volume in their teaching program. If this exercise is used solely at one’s own institution with no intent for profit, it is excluded from the preceding copyright restriction, unless otherwise noted on the copyright notice of the individual chapter in this volume. Proper credit to this publication must be included in your laboratory outline for each use; a sample citation is given above.