# What Do the Bones Say?
## Forensic Anthropology

Combining the scientific techniques of anthropology with the investigative strategies of forensics to identify missing person remains and solve crimes

## Activity 5.4.1

# What information would help you describe and identify a missing person?

# Bones Tell Us Many Things

- Age
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Height
- Weight
- Build
- Pathologies like old injuries

# Famous People in Forensic Anthropology

Wyman and Keep, doctors at the Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts

Mildred Trotter, anatomy professor at University of Washington, St. Louis, Missouri
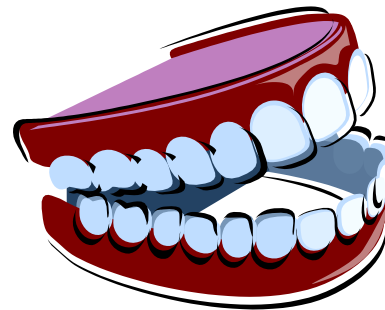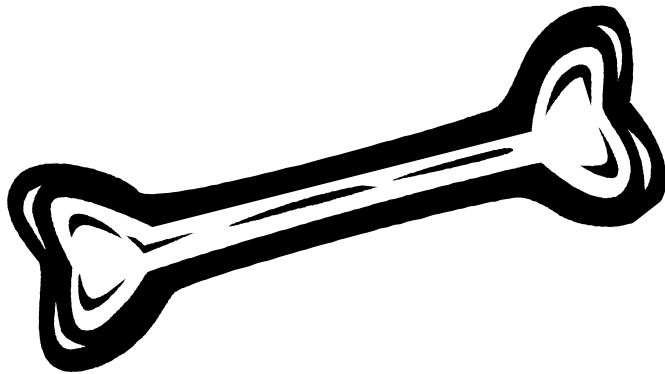
# Jeffries Wyman and Nathan Keep

- First recorded criminal case that used forensic anthropology was in 1849

- Dr. John White Webster murdered Dr. George Parkman over a debt Webster owed

- Webster burned Parkman's body, put the remains among 150 other bones in a vault beneath his office at Harvard Medical School

# Wyman: Harvard Anatomy Professor Keep: Harvard Dentist

- Wyman concluded that the remains matched Parkman's height, weight, gender, age and build.

- Keep matched teeth to dental records.

- Webster was convicted of murder.

# Dr. Mildred Trotter



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# Mildred Trotter

- Anthropologist and anatomist
- Identified WWII soldiers' remains at the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii from 1948 to 1949
- First female to attain rank of full professor at the University of Washington
- Created formulas to estimate height of a person based on length of long leg bones

# Long Bones in Your Body

- Tibia is the shin bone
- Femur is the thigh bone
- Ulna is the outer bone of the lower arm

# Our Task

- Construction site unearthed skeletal remains

- One long bone was found – the ulna which measures 28.5 centimeters

- To find the height of the person whose ulna was found, devise a formula for estimating a person's height given their ulna length