



Investigating ink

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Cocker Spaniel caught up in Canine Crime Spree

Earlier this week, Lady Felicity Feline received a ransom note demanding £100,000 for the safe return of Colin, her prize-winning Cocker Spaniel. Detectives have seized black pens from four prime suspects so that they can carry out ink investigations to find out who sent the note.



“Someone had splashed a drop of water on the note and we spotted something very interesting,” Inspector Khan told our reporter. “With a bit of help we should soon have Colin back.”



◀ Suspects

★ Your challenge

Help the detectives to match the ink from the ransom note to one of the suspects' pens to find out who has Colin the Cocker Spaniel.

Talk about

- ★ What ways could you use to tell the difference between the black pens?
- ★ Drop water on black ink and watch what happens.
- ★ How might this help to solve the crime?



★ Here are some ideas to get you started

- ★ Pens write differently and the colour of the ink can vary. Perhaps you can see these differences if you look closely.
- ★ If you have explored what water does to some ink, can you use what you have found out to investigate the suspects' pens? **This process is called chromatography.**

- ★ One way to test the ink is to drip water onto a sample of the ransom note. Watch what happens. Compare this with blobs of ink from the suspects' pens.

★ Now you can start investigating

Try to gather as much different evidence as you **can.**

★ Sharing your ideas

Why not make a wanted poster which includes all the evidence to help detectives track down the criminal you have identified?

Congratulations!

You are a super ink investigator.

Collect your stickers and get ready for your next challenge.

★ Here are some extra challenges

- ★ Is it only black pens that you can test with chromatography?
- ★ Are there other things that are coloured that you can test such as jelly beans or food colouring?
- ★ Are there other ways of doing chromatography?