

Units 6 & 7ab: DOA/Creepy Crawlies/No Bones About It

Essential Vocabulary

1. **Adipocere:** also called “grave wax,” insoluble fatty acids left as residue from preexisting fats from decomposing cadavers. It is formed by the slow hydrolysis of fats in wet ground and can occur in both embalmed and untreated bodies.
2. **Algor Mortis:** postmortem (after death) cooling of the body.
3. **Ambient:** Concerning the surrounding area or environment.
4. **Anthropology:** the scientific study of the origins and behavior as well as the physical, social, and cultural development of humans.
5. **Arthropods:** a member of a phylum of animals characterized by jointed legs, a segmented body, and a hard, nonliving exoskeleton.
6. **Autolysis:** a process by which a biological cell self-destructs.
7. **Autopsy:** a postmortem examination of the body, including dissection to determine cause of death.
8. **Carrion:** the carcass of a dead and decaying animal.
9. **Caucasoid:** descriptor for people of European, Middle Eastern, and East Indian descent
10. **Cluster:** a group of wounds
11. **Degree-day:** a unit of measure of the energy absorbed by a biological system, causing growth.
12. **Diagenesis:** the process of chemical and physical change in deposited sediment during its conversion to rock.
13. **Diaphysis:** the shaft of a long bone.
14. **Eclosion:** emergence of an adult fly from its pupal case.
15. **Entomology:** the scientific study of insects.
16. **Epiphyses:** the presence of a visible line that marks the place where cartilage is being replaced by bone, known as growth plates which are found at the ends of the long bones. They form in adolescence and fuse to the bone during early adulthood.
17. **Exoskeleton:** a rigid external structure made of chitin and protein (protects, provides a point of attachment for muscles; prevents water loss.)
18. **Femur:** long bone found in the leg extending from the hip to the knee
19. **Forensic anthropology:** a type of applied physical anthropology that specializes in the human skeletal system for purposes of identifying unknown remains. The study of physical anthropology as it applies to human skeletal remains in a legal setting.
20. **Forensic entomology:** the study of insects in legal situations.
21. **Glaister equation:** a formula used for determining the approximate time period since death based on body temperature.
22. **Humerus:** long bone found in the arm extending from the shoulder to the elbow
23. **Iliac crest:** found on the top of the hip bone

24. **Instar:** a developmental stage of arthropods, generally referring to changes in the size of the larvae.
25. **Joints:** locations where bones meet.
26. **Larva:** immature, feeding stage of insects that undergoes complete metamorphosis; the stage between the egg and pupa.
27. **Livor mortis:** a purple or red discoloration of the skin caused by pooling of blood after death.
28. **Macrofauna:** animals visible to the naked eye, generally 1 mm and longer.
29. **Maggot:** legless larva
30. **Mites:** tiny eight-legged creatures belonging to the order Acarina, related to spiders and ticks
31. **Mitochondrial DNA:** DNA found in the mitochondrial that is inherited only through mothers.
32. **Molt:** the shedding of an insect's outer skeleton during a growth stage.
33. **Mongoloid:** descriptor for people of Asian, Native American, and Polynesian descent.
34. **Necrophagous:** feeding on carrion; from the Greek word phagos, to eat, and necro, meaning dead.
35. **Negroid:** descriptor for people of Africian, Aborigine, and Melanesian descent.
36. **Ossification:** the process that replaces soft cartilage with hard bone by the deposition of minerals.
37. **Osteobiography:** the physical record of a person's life as told by his or her bones
38. **Osteoblast:** a type of cell capable of migrating and depositing new bone
39. **Osteoclast:** a bone cell involved in the breaking down of bone and the removal of wastes.
40. **Osteocyte:** an osteoblast that becomes trapped in the construction of bone; also known as a living bone cell.
41. **Osteoporosis:** weakening of bone, which may happen if there is not enough calcium in the diet.
42. **Postmortem Interval (PMI):** the interval of time between when death occurs and the body is discovered.
43. **Pupa:** nonfeeding and relatively inactive developmental stage of some insects.
44. **Putrefaction:** the decomposition of animal proteins, especially by anaerobic microorganisms.
45. **Radius:** long bone found in the arm extending from the elbow to the wrist
46. **Rigor mortis:** a stiffness in the muscles that occurs shortly after death.
47. **Skeletal trauma analysis:** the investigation of bones and the marks on them to uncover a potential cause of death.
48. **Sutures:** immovable joints where bones are joined together. They are visible as seams on the surface.
49. **Symphysis:** a place where two bones meet and may rub together.
50. **Tibia:** long bone found in the leg extending from the knee to the ankle