



High School Science Virtual Learning

Forensic Science

Algor Mortis

April 20, 2020



High School Forensic Science

Lesson: April 20, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Students will be able to identify Algor Mortis and how it relates to the time of death.



On your own sheet of paper answer the following:

1. What happens when you step outside in the cold without a coat?

2. What is the normal resting temperature of a human body?



1. Your body loses heat, your body gets cold, etc
2. 98.6 degrees F



Lesson Activity:

Directions: You will be watching this 2 minute review over what Algor Mortis is. Then you will follow up with the calculation video highlighting how much heat is lost after death. While watching, you will need to take notes over the videos, on the same sheet from earlier:

Link(s): [2 minute Video](#)
[Calculation video](#)



Practice

You will use the information from the activity on slide 5 to answer the following questions.

Practice Questions

1. What happens during Algor Mortis?
2. What happens if a body is in a warmer environment?
3. What are the 3 ways bodies lose heat?
4. How do they take the body temperature?
5. Are there any ways you can slow the loss of body heat after death?
6. How much heat is lost per hour for the first 12 hours?



Answer Key

Once you have completed the practice questions check with the work.

1. The body loses heat until it is the same as outside temperature
2. If a body is in the heat it will get warmer until it is the same temperature
3. Convection, conduction, and radiation
4. Most the time you use rectal thermometer or in the liver.
5. The body can have clothing, put indoors, wrapping the body
6. 1.4- 1.6 degrees per hour



More Practice

You will use the calculation video from the activity on slide 5 practicing body heat calculations, answer the following questions.



More Practice Questions

****Remember the formula of $1.4-1.6^*$ per hour only applies to the first 12 hours. After that it becomes 1^* per hour. ***For your practice you will use 1.4^*F***

1. If a body was found, in ideal conditions at 84.6^*F , how long could the body have been lifeless?
2. If a body was found, in ideal conditions at 92.3^*F , how long could the body have been lifeless?
3. If a body's heat was measured 6.5 hours after death, what should be the body heat in ideal conditions?
4. A body was found on a nice spring day, the temperature was taken at 78.8^*F , how long could the person been dead for?



Answer Key

Once you have completed the practice questions check with the work.

1. 10 Hours
2. 4.5 Hours
3. 89.5 *F
4. 15 Hours



Additional Practice

If you feel like you need to review more on how Algor mortis works you can use this lesson from the following link.

[Online lecture](#)