High School Science Virtual Learning

Forensic Science
Police Sketches

April 28, 2020

High School Forensic Science
Lesson: April 28, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:
Students will be able to create and assess police sketches used to identify persons.

On your own sheet of paper answer the following:

1. Do you believe that these two sketches were very accurate ?

2. Why could sketches lead to arresting the wrong person?

1. Opinion response- yes or no (top is not close at all)

2. Inaccurate sketches can indicate the wrong person by looking like someone else instead of the actual perp.

Lesson Activity:

Directions: You will be watching this short video on how human brains remember faces and how it relates to police sketches. Then you will see first hand examples of people using common characters in creating police sketches and their accuracy.

Link(s): Human Memory and Police Sketching
Accuracy Test for Police Sketch Artist

Practice

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

Practice Questions

1. How often were sketches correctly identified in some studies?
2. How do humans process faces?
3. Pause video at 2:04, Name the top half of the face and bottom.
4. Why are sketches so hard to match up to criminals? (Human skill)
5. When the new program was tried in real police departments how well did it do?

Answer Key

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

1. 8% of the time
2. Holistically
3. George Clooney, Harrison Ford
4. Humans are good at recognizing faces, but bad at recognizing parts of faces
5. Arrests around 40% of the time

More Practice

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

More Practice Questions

1. Who are the three suspects the artist will be recreating from the interviews?
2. What are some early descriptions the three witnesses typically gave?
3. In your opinion, which picture was the closest in resemblance?

    Using this description and the face program here, you will create your own police sketch.

    She looked like she was 16- 17 years old. This caucasian teen had a pageboy haircut with dark brown hair and green eyes. She had 'chipmunk cheeks' that looked like it was from medicine. She was carrying around an oxygen tank and nasal cannulas. She was very thin and had a pointed chin. Her ears and eyebrows were thin on her face. She seemed to be wearing a white shirt from a hospital.

Answer Key

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

1. Robert De Niro, James Franco, Samuel L Jackson.
2. Race, gender, age, face shape, jaw line, hair type, hair color, eye distance, etc.
3. May vary, but most agree that the first one (Robert De NIro) .

Your picture can look like this:

Additional Practice

If you are interested in exploring more in depth on the technologies available for police sketching here are some resources:

[Facial recognition technology to replace eyewitness?](#)

[Additional practice to run with the face program](#)