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Level 2 – 8th January 2026

Moss is effective in solving crimes, says study

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics-2.html>

The police often use fingerprints, CCTV, and DNA to find criminals. A new study shows that moss is also used. Moss grows everywhere. These tiny plants can help in police investigations. The study is in the journal *Forensic Sciences Research*. Scientists looked at all the cases in which moss was used to help solve crimes. Lead scientist Dr Matt von Konrat said: "We wanted to highlight the significance of botanical evidence because...investigators may be overlooking it." He added: "We're hoping that our study helps show how important these tiny plants can be."

The earliest reported case of moss helping the police was in 1929. Moss on a skeleton helped police know when a person had died. In 2013, scientists found moss on a man's shoes. This helped the police to find where the man's baby was buried. Dr von Konrat found the baby's body. He said: "Based on the bits of moss, we knew what sort of micro-habitat we were looking for." The father was convicted of murder. Forensic scientist Jenna Merkel said: "We aim to raise awareness of forensic botany." She wants the police to understand how moss can help them in their work.

Sources: <https://www.greenmatters.com/pn/this-overlooked-plant-has-been-quietly-helping-forensic-experts-solve-crimes-new-study-reveals>
<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/moss-is-so-unique-its-acted-like-fingerprints-to-help-solve-a-dozen-crimes/>
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2025/12/251225080738.htm>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1. The police often	a. study helps
2. Moss grows	b. crimes
3. These tiny plants can help in	c. use fingerprints
4. moss was used to help solve	d. everywhere
5. highlight the significance of	e. tiny plants can be
6. investigators may be	f. police investigations
7. We're hoping that our	g. overlooking it
8. show how important these	h. botanical evidence

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1. The earliest reported case of moss	a. them in their work
2. helped police know when a	b. on a man's shoes
3. scientists found moss	c. of murder
4. This helped the police	d. of forensic botany
5. what sort of micro-habitat we	e. helping the police
6. The father was convicted	f. to find where
7. We aim to raise awareness	g. person had died
8. understand how moss can help	h. were looking for

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics-2.html>

The (1) _____ fingerprints, CCTV, and DNA to find criminals. A new study shows that moss is also used. Moss grows everywhere. These (2) _____ help in police investigations. The study is (3) _____ Forensic Sciences Research. Scientists looked at all the cases in which moss was used to (4) _____. Lead scientist Dr Matt von Konrat said: "We wanted to highlight the significance (5) _____ because...investigators may be overlooking it." He added: "We're hoping that our study helps show how important these tiny (6) _____."

The earliest reported case of moss (7) _____ was in 1929. Moss on a skeleton helped police know (8) _____ had died. In 2013, scientists found moss on a man's shoes. This helped the police to find where the man's (9) _____. Dr von Konrat found the baby's body. He said: "Based on the bits of moss, we knew what sort of micro-habitat we (10) _____. " The father was convicted of murder. Forensic scientist Jenna Merkel said: "We (11) _____ awareness of forensic botany." She wants the police to understand how moss can help them (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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MOSS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about moss in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1	STUDENT 2	STUDENT 3
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics-2.html>

Write about **moss** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.