



# **Build Your Own Mystery Kit The Texas Ranger Way!**

The Texas Rangers and other law enforcement agencies and crime scene investigators have sophisticated scientific equipment to assist them in gathering evidence and solving crimes. The following is a list of items that you might be able to use to build a mystery kit for gathering evidence.

Ruler	Use a ruler to measure the length of different pieces of evidence, including tire tracks from a car or bicycle. Can you match the length of a muddy footprint in your garden with the length of a family member's shoe?
Scotch Tape	Scotch tape can be used for lifting fingerprints from glass countertops, or other hard surfaces.
Magnifying Glass	A magnifying glass can make it easier for you to notice things that are very small, such as strands of hair or fabric.
Tweezers	Tweezers may be used to pick up strands of hair or other small items you might find.
Plastic Bag	Use plastic bags to put evidence in.
Black Marker	Use a permanent marker to write on plastic bags.
Camera	Photographing crime scenes is a regular practice. Take photos of evidence before you move it so you have documentation of where it was found.
Paper Bag	Texas Ranger Lt. George Turner says that wet evidence should be placed in a paper bag. If placed inside a plastic bag, mildew will form (which could ruin the evidence).

Talk with your parents, teachers or friends. What other common items can you use to gather and document evidence with? Why is this evidence so important? What steps can you take to preserve this evidence?