

Students' Directions

Your mission: You are on a team of homicide detectives investigating the murder of an American ex-pat living in Muscat, Oman. Your goal is to discover who committed the murder and what the motive was for the crime. There are other teams trying to solve the murder too, but you want to be the ones to do it and to do it most thoroughly (so that the prosecution can make a successful case). That way, you will get your much-deserved promotions! You can be successful if everyone on your team does a thorough job, and if you work together carefully on the debriefing each day. Good luck!

Process:

1. Your investigative team needs to choose a discussion leader, recording secretary, and timekeeper. These positions may vary from day to day.
2. Each class period, you will travel to a different place that is relevant to the victim's final months. In order to evaluate the clues, you will do the following:
 - (a) As a group, look over the powerpoint to get a background knowledge of the area and to look for clues. (10 minutes)
 - (b) Individually or in pairs, read the place card and witness statement for which you are responsible. Take notes on important info to report back to the group. Do this carefully as you don't want to miss important information. (15 minutes)
 - (c) Report to the group about your evidence card (place) and witness statement (person). (The leader organizes the reports; the recording secretary takes down important notes.)
 - (d) If you run out of time, this is **HOMEWORK**: Fill out the suspect sheet. Which witness/es could be possible suspects? Which can't? Give reasons.

So now let's begin with the crime:

The victim: John Thompson, age 32, an American who has been living in Oman for the past 2 years. He was divorced one year before coming to Oman. He helped manage an English-language program in Muscat, one that catered to businessmen, government employees, and professional people who want to improve their English. Thompson was also a free-lance journalist, who wrote articles for English-language journals around the world. It is said that he was hoping to write a book as well.

The crime: Thompson's body was found in his apartment at 11:30 am last Thursday by his business partner, Harish G. Harish, an Indian-national who has lived in Oman for the past 20 years, became concerned when his friend/colleague didn't show up for an important early morning meeting. Concerned, he went by John's apartment, letting himself in with a spare key. That's when he discovered the body.

Evidence: The coroner's report indicates that Thompson had been dead for at least 12 hours, placing the time of death between 9:00 and 11:00 the previous evening. There was no sign of

forced entry, so he may have opened the door to his killer. There was no sign of a struggle. The cause of death was a gunshot wound to the head. The murder weapon has not been found.

The apartment had been ransacked, desk drawers and filing cabinets emptied, papers strewn about. The victim's desktop computer was missing, but his wallet – with over 100 Omani rials – was still in the victim's pocket.