

Risk Assessment
Forensic Anthropology Workshop

Activity

Running a forensic anthropology workshop involving the examination, handling, and analysis of skeletal remains for educational purposes.

Location

Classroom, science laboratory, museum space, or workshop venue.

Persons at Risk

- Students / participants
- Teachers / workshop leaders
- Technicians
- Visitors or observers

Description of Activities

Activities may include:

- Examination of real animal and human bones
- Skeletal identification activities
- Estimation of age, sex, and stature
- Bone measurement exercises
- Use of calipers, rulers, or measuring equipment
- Photography and recording of evidence
- Group discussions and presentations

Hazard Identification and Control Measures

Hazard	Risk	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Handling skeletal remains	Cuts, contamination, emotional distress	Use cleaned and prepared educational specimens only. Wear gloves when appropriate. Brief participants sensitively before handling materials.	Low

Use of measuring tools (calipers, rulers)	Minor injuries from misuse	Demonstrate correct use before activity. Supervise participants.	Low
Trip hazards from equipment	Trips and falls	Keep walkways clear. Organise workspaces carefully. Clean up equipment promptly.	Low
Biological contamination (if using real specimens)	Infection risk	Only professionally prepared specimens should be used. Follow hygiene procedures and local regulations.	Low
Emotional sensitivity around human remains	Distress or discomfort	Provide clear advance notice of workshop content. Allow participants to opt out if uncomfortable. Use respectful language and handling practices.	Low
Electrical equipment (projectors, laptops)	Electric shock or trip hazards	Check equipment before use. Keep cables tidy and dry. Do not overload sockets.	Low

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Participants may require:

- Disposable nitrile gloves
- Safety goggles (if excavation or dusty activities are included)
- Laboratory coat or apron
- Closed-toe footwear

PPE requirements depend on the nature of the activities.

Safe Working Procedures

1. Participants should receive a safety briefing before activities begin.
2. Treat all specimens respectfully and carefully.
3. Wash hands after handling materials.
4. Long hair should be tied back and loose clothing secured.
5. Eating and drinking are prohibited during practical activities.
6. Use only approved educational specimens and materials.
7. Handle measuring tools and equipment carefully.
8. Keep workspaces tidy to reduce trip hazards.
9. Report any damage, breakages, or injuries immediately.
10. Ensure participants understand emergency procedures and exits.

First Aid Measures

Incident	Action
Cuts or abrasions	Clean wound, apply dressing, and seek first aid support if necessary.
Dust inhalation	Move to fresh air and seek assistance if symptoms persist.
Chemical splash to eyes or skin	Rinse thoroughly with water and seek assistance if irritation continues.
Trips or falls	Assess injury and seek first aid support.
Emotional distress	Remove participant from activity if needed and provide appropriate support.

Emergency Procedures

- Report all accidents or incidents immediately.
- Follow site fire and evacuation procedures.
- Ensure first aid equipment is available and accessible.
- Supervising staff should know emergency contact procedures.

Disposal

- Dispose of waste materials according to local procedures.
- Clean and disinfect reusable equipment after use.
- Store specimens securely after activities.
- Dispose of damaged materials safely.

Supervision Requirements

- Activities must be supervised by qualified staff.
- Additional supervision may be required for younger participants.
- Only trained staff should handle any genuine human remains where legally permitted.

Risk Level Summary

Stage	Risk Level
Before controls	Medium
After controls	Low

Approval

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Manager & Workshop Tutor



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