

Virtual Skeleton Identification

Name: _____

PART 1: Gender & Ethnicity

A – Pelvis

Provide the information about the differences between the male and female pelvis.

Gender	Angle of Ischium	Sacrum Tilt	Ilium Spread	Pelvic Outlet
Female				
Male				

Identify the characteristics of each pelvis (circle your answer) then decide if it belongs to a female or a male:

Pelvis #1	Pelvis #2
Angle > 90 degrees or < 90 degrees	Angle > 90 degrees or < 90 degrees
Sacrum Forward or Backward	Sacrum Forward or Backward
Pelvic Outlet Small or Large	Pelvic Outlet Small or Large
Iliac Close or Spread	Iliac Close or Spread
Female or Male	Female or Male

B – Skull

Provide the information about the differences between the male and female pelvis.

Landmarks	Female	Male
Chin		
Mastoid Process (Behind Ear)		
External Occipital Protuberance (Back of Skull)		
General Anatomy		
Forehead		
Brow Ridges (Location of Eyebrows)		
Muscle Lines		
Orbital Margins (Edge of Eye Socket)		
Angle of Ascending Ramus (Back Corner of the Jaw)		

Provide the information about the differences between the male and female skulls.

Skull #1:	Skull #2
Chin Rounded or Square	Chin Rounded or Square
Mastoid Process Small or Large	Mastoid Process Small or Large
Occipital Protuberance Small or Large	Occipital Protuberance Small or Large
General Anatomy Gracile or Robust	General Anatomy Gracile or Robust
Forehead Vertical or Receding	Forehead Vertical or Receding
Brow Ridges Slight or Prominent	Brow Ridges Slight or Prominent
Muscle Lines Slight or Prominent	Muscle Lines Slight or Prominent
Orbital Margins Sharp or Rounded	Orbital Margins Sharp or Rounded
Angle of Ramus 90 degrees or Obtuse	Angle of Ramus 90 degrees or Obtuse

Gender Female or Male	Gender Female or Male
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Identify the three skulls based on their dental arch and the shape of their incisors:

Skull #1	Skull #2	Skull #3
Arch Shape Hyperbola, Parabola, or Rounded	Arch Shape Hyperbola, Parabola, or Rounded	Arch Shape Hyperbola, Parabola, or Rounded
Incisor Spatulate or Shovel-shaped	Incisor Spatulate or Shovel-shaped	Incisor Spatulate or Shovel-shaped
RACE African Asian Caucasian	RACE African Asian Caucasian	RACE African Asian Caucasian

PART 2: Age

Tell which of the spines below is old or young, arthritic and not arthritic:

Spine #1	Spine #2
Arthritic Yes or No	Arthritic Yes or No
Younger or Older	Younger or Older

Compare the two skulls to determine which skull is from an adult, and which is from an adolescent:

Skull #1	Skull #2
Frontal Suture Present or Absent	Frontal Suture Present or Absent
Other Sutures "Open" or "Closed"	Other Sutures "Open" or "Closed"
Adolescent or Adult	Adolescent or Adult

Examine the radiographs, and determine whether they are from adults or children:

Bone #1	Bone #2
Epiphyseal Plate or Line	Epiphyseal Plate or Line
Adult or Child	Adult or Child

PART 3: Height

Now plug in the following numbers into the formula to determine the height to the nearest 1/2 inch (expressed both as inches -- x" -- and as feet and inches -- x' + y") of the deceased:

Gender	Bone	Length	Calculations SHOW YOUR WORK!	Height x" in Inches	Height x' + y" (Feet + Inches)	Multiply by 2.54 to get the Height in cm
Female	Femur	17.9"				
Male	Femur	17.9"				
Female	Humerus	11.5"				
Male	Humerus	11.5"				
Female	Radius	9.3"				

Male	Radius	9.3"				
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QUESTIONS:

1. What is the easiest way to determine the gender (using the skeleton) of an individual, and why?
2. What is the easiest way to tell (using the skeleton) whether a teenager is lying about her/his age, and why?
3. Why can determining gender from a skull be difficult?
4. Why should a forensic anthropologist use more than one bone (if possible) to determine the height of an individual?
5. What other issue is important to question four, especially if there is only one bone from which to work?