Physical Evidence Notes

1. The value of trace forensic evidence was first recognized by Edmund ____________ in 1910. The Locard’s Exchange Principle states that "with ____________ between two items, there will be an _____________."

2. Complete each section below as you discuss the notes in class.

Paint
What is an example of a "class" characteristic? ________________
What is an example of an "individual" characteristic? ________________

Glass
What are three characteristics of glass that could be used to match glass from a crime scene to a suspect?
_______________________  ______________________  ______________________

Explosives
How do scientists match bombs and other explosive devices to suspects? ________________________________
__________________________________________________

Ballistics
What does the abbreviation GSR represent? ____________  ________________
What is rifling? __________________________________________________________________________
What does the acronym IBIS mean? __________________________________________________________________________

Dust & Dirt
How could dust or dirt be used in an investigation? ________________________________________________

Fingerprints
What are the 3 main types of fingerprints? ________________________________________________
What does the acronym AFIS mean? __________________________________________________________________________

Impression Evidence
Give 3 examples of impression evidence. ________________________________________________

Fractures Matches
What are fracture lines? __________________________________________________________________________
Give an example of a type of evidence that might be identified using a fracture match. ______________________

Wounds
What information can be learned from a wound? ________________________________________________
Documents
Besides handwriting, what else could an investigator use to match a ransom note to a suspect?

Insects
What type of insects are helpful in a murder investigation?
What is PMI?

DNA
What types of tissues might be used for DNA testing?
What does the acronym CODIS mean?

Skeletal Remains
What 4 things can be determined from skeletal remains?
What type of scientist studies skeletal remains?

Body Fluids
What type of clues could investigators get from body fluid samples? Give two examples.

Hairs & Fibers
How can hairs and fibers be used in an investigation?
What must be present in a hair sample to test for DNA?