

Forensic Files: Past Lives

Name _____

Complete this worksheet as you watch the video.

1. What is believed to have happened to Rutherford? _____

2. What did his wife do to help investigators identify the body? _____
3. What was unusual about the medical alert bracelet? _____
4. How much was Rutherford insured for? _____
5. What did examining the skull fragments tell Dr. Bass about the skeleton?
 - 1 - _____
 - 2 - _____
6. What did Dr. Bass learn from the teeth?
 - 1 - _____
 - 2 - _____
7. What was Dr. Bass's finding? _____
8. Why did investigators think the scene was staged? Give two reasons.
 - 1 - _____
 - 2 - _____
9. Why did Rutherford tell his neighbor his death was faked? _____

10. What did the FBI tell the neighbor? _____
11. What did the Mexican authorities find? _____
12. How did investigators find him? _____

13. What was the motive behind Rutherford's scheme? _____
14. What was his sentence? _____ His wife's? _____

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ANSWER KEY

Complete this worksheet as you watch the video.

1. What is believed to have happened to Rutherford? **He was burned to death in a car accident.**
2. What did his wife have to do help investigators identify the body? **She gave him a tooth.**
3. What was unusual about the medical alert bracelet? **It was not clasped.**
4. How much was Rutherford insured for? **\$7 million**
5. What did examining the skull fragments tell Dr. Bass about the skeleton?
 - 1 – **The person must have had his head on the floor of the car.**
 - 2 – **The amount of fusion between the parts of the skull showed it was an older person.**
6. What did Dr. Bass learn from the teeth?
 - 1 – **The teeth were shoveled shaped showing an Asian or American Indian heritage.**
 - 2 - **The person had lots of cavities (not like someone who was wealthy.)**
7. What was Dr. Bass's finding? **The skeleton was not Rutherford.**
8. Why did investigators think the scene was staged? Give two reasons.
 - 1 – **The bracelet and watch were not clasped.**
 - 2 – **Although eyewitnesses saw a bicycle, none was found at the scene.**
9. Why did Rutherford tell his neighbor his death was faked? **He said that the FBI faked his death to protect him.**
10. What did the FBI tell the neighbor? **They told her that Rutherford had taken all her money.**
11. What did the Mexican authorities find? **They found a bag of bloody clothes with Rutherford's blood on them.**
12. How did investigators find him? **He was posing as a business man in Boston, but was driving a car registered to Rutherford.**
13. What was the motive behind Rutherford's scheme? **He lost a lot of money on stocks.**
14. What was his sentence? **5 years** His wife's? **18 months**