

Name _____

ACTIVITY 17-2 FIRING PIN MATCH

Directions: Complete the steps of the activity listed in your textbook. Refer to the photographs and diagrams in your textbook for information. Then complete the Final Analysis below.

Data Table: Comparison of Casings

	Suspect 1	Suspect 2	Suspect 3
Caliber			
Headstamp marking			
Firing pin strike (center or rim)			
Description of unique markings			
Evidence casing consistent with suspect (Write the letters, if none, write none)			

Final Analysis:

1. Were you able to exclude any of the suspects? Cite evidence from your data to support your claim.
2. Describe unusual characteristics that linked any of the suspect's casings to the crime-scene cartridge casings.
3. If you were a prosecuting attorney, what argument could you provide to the defense's argument that "if a suspect's cartridge shell casings were *not* found at a crime scene, he must be innocent"?
4. Crime labs today are better able to compare and analyze ballistic evidence. Describe two advances in technology that have enabled a better use of ballistics evidence in solving crime.

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Further Study (enrichment)

Research the D.C. sniper case study (p. 621 of new text). Explain how firearms evidence was used to link the two suspects to the series of killings.