

Time of Death - 101

Practicing Calculation - Task Cards ONLY



Guided Lesson & Practice

Answer Keys with Mathwork Shown

Class Lesson & Practice

DETERMINING TIME OF DEATH

The Glaister equation is one formula used to approximate the time of death. Note: This equation uses degrees Fahrenheit. Convert (C) to Fahrenheit (F) using the following formula: $F = C \times 1.8 + 32$

Glaister Equation:
 $98.4 - \text{measured rectal temperature} = \text{approximate hours since death occurred} \times 1.5$

Once you have the approximate hours since death occurred, you can determine the time of death by adding the hours from the time the temperature was taken to identify a time of death.

Time of temperature taken - approximate hours since death occurred = time of death

For the 3 death scenarios below, complete the data chart to determine the time of death for each scenario.

Murder #1
 The body was discovered at 10:35 pm on Thursday, in a living room where the temperature was 59°F at time of discovery. The coroner took the deceased's rectal body temperature at 98.4°F.

Murder #2
 A woman was discovered at 6:20 pm on Saturday, in a living room where the temperature was 59°F at time of discovery. The coroner took the deceased's rectal body temperature at 98.4°F.

Murder #3
 The body of a college student was discovered in a parking garage at 3:30 pm by another student. The outside temperature in the parking garage was 59°F at time of discovery. The coroner took the deceased's rectal body temperature at 98.4°F.

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Student Worksheets

Time of Death?

Instructions: Calculate the Time of Death for your WORK and all calculations.

Student Name: _____ Period: _____

TIME OF DEATH WORKSHEET

	Murder #1	Murder #2	Murder #3
Body (rectal) temperature at time of discovery			
Time of temperature was recorded			
Temperature at location of body			
Approximate hours since death occurred			
Estimated time of death			

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Answer Key

Card Number: 1, 2

Answer Key

Answer Key

Card Number	Body Temp (°F)	Time of Temp	Math	Hour/Min	Time of Death
1	95.4	6:26 PM	2.00	2 hr 0 min	4:26 PM
2	93.1	7:15 AM	3.53	3 hr 30 min	3:45 AM
3	94.3	2:45 AM	2.73	2 hr 45 min	Midnight
4	89.4	10:37 AM	6.00	6 hr 0 min	4:37 AM
5	85.25	4:15 PM	8.77	8 hr 45 min	7:30 AM
6	73.6	3:15 PM	16.53	16 hr 30 min	10:45 PM Day before
7	69.6	4:40 AM	19.20	19 hr 15 min	9:25 AM Day before
8	56.4	5:13 AM	28.00	28 hr 0 min	1:13 AM Day after

Show the MATH

Card #1
 $98.4 - 95.4 = 3$
 $3 \div 1.5 = 2.00$
 2.00 = 2 hr 0 min

Card #2
 $98.4 - 93.1 = 5.3$
 $5.3 \div 1.5 = 3.53$
 $3.53 = 3 \text{ hr } 30 \text{ min}$

Card #3
 $98.4 - 94.3 = 4.1$
 $4.1 \div 1.5 = 2.73$
 $2.73 = 2 \text{ hr } 45 \text{ min}$

Card #4
 $98.4 - 89.4 = 9$
 $9 \div 1.5 = 6.00$
 $6.00 = 6 \text{ hr } 0 \text{ min}$

Card #5
 $98.4 - 85.25 = 13.15$
 $13.15 \div 1.5 = 8.77$
 $8.77 = 8 \text{ hr } 45 \text{ min}$

Card #6
 $98.4 - 73.6 = 24.8$
 $24.8 \div 1.5 = 16.53$
 $16.53 = 16 \text{ hr } 30 \text{ min}$

Card #7
 $98.4 - 69.6 = 28.8$
 $28.8 \div 1.5 = 19.20$
 $19.20 = 19 \text{ hr } 15 \text{ min}$

Card #8
 $98.4 - 56.4 = 42$
 $42 \div 1.5 = 28.00$
 $28.00 = 28 \text{ hr } 0 \text{ min}$

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