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Sex Determination and Race Identification Based On Bone Measurements and Characteristics

2/2/2013

Summary

In this experiment we worked with the remains of a human being to determine sex and race. This experiment was designed to help understand how to use bone structure and characteristics of bone to determine sex and race. We used Ward’s Sherlock Bones Kit B, protractors, metric rulers, and calipers to measure and categorize the bones given. In the end, we determined that the remains belonged to a Caucasian female.

Before performing the experiment, we learned how to use bones to determine what or who they once were. Using the website:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/visibleproofs/education/anthropological/index.html>, we learned how the different characteristics of the skull could easily show whether the remains were male or female, Caucasoid, Mongoloid, or Negroid. It was much easier to go about the experiment, having already knowing this information. The purpose was to teach us how different genders and races vary structurally.

Hypothesis

Once all of the bones are examined, we will reveal that the remains belong to either a female or male, and they will be Caucasoid, Mongoloid, or Negroid. If the sub-pubic angle is greater than 90°, the remains belong to a female, less than 90°, they belong to a male. If the nasal index is less than .48, the remains belong to a Caucasoid. If the nasal index is greater than .53, the remains belong to a Negroid. If the nasal index is in the vicinity of .48-.53, the remains belong to a Mongoloid.

Materials and Methods