Name:_____

Catching Killers: Smoking Guns

1. What was James Buchanan doing when he was shot?

2. Why was Buchanan's death particularly meaningful to police?

3. What happened shortly after James Buchanan's death?

4. How many more people were shot and killed over the next 12 hours? Who were they?

5. What conclusion do police draw about this grouping of murders?

6. How many people are shot and killed over the next three weeks?

7. How many people were shot and wounded during that same three week period?

8. What was the only thing all the victims had in common?

9. How far can a bullet from a high velocity rifle travel?

10. What process made it possible to match bullets to the gun that shot them?

11. What pattern do bullets travel in to hit targets with the most accuracy? How is this effect created by the gun?

12. Describe the murder of Margaret Walcott.

13. Who else was murdered in the same event?

14. What was believe to be the original motive for the murder? Why?

15. Why don't police believe Charles Stielow's account of how he found the bodies?

16. Describe the conditions of Stielow's questioning.

17. What was the lie that Stielow admitted to telling? Why is this important?

18. What happened a week before Stielow's trial?

19. What is the essence of firearms identification?

20. What are lands?

21. What are grooves?

22. What can the marks help ballistics experts identify?

23. How did Hamilton determine Stielow's gun killed Margaret Walcott and Charles Phelps?

24. What was the first tip police started receiving about the DC Sniper? What did it lead to?

25. Why is it sometime more difficult to analyze bullets today? Why do bullets do this?

26. What was Walter Dandridge able to determine about the DC Sniper case?

27. What made the shooting at the Ponderosa Steakhouse different?

28. How is the DC Sniper case connected to Montgomery, AL?

29. Who do the prints on the magazine match?

30. What was the jury's verdict in the Stielow case? What was his sentence?

31. What happened next in the Stielow case?

32. What did the new detectives discover about Hamilton's research and conclusions?

33. What conclusion did Max Poser reach?

34. What finally ended Hamilton's career as an expert witness?

35. In what year was the Bureau of Forensic Ballistics created?

36. What are the two ways John Muhammad is connected to the DC Sniper case?

37. Describe John Muhammad.

38. Describe how the car was modified to commit the DC Sniper crimes.

39. What was Dandridge determine about the gun found in the car?

40. What is the result of Muhammad's trial? What is his sentence?

41. What happened to Malvo?

42. What does IBIS do? Why is it important?