

# Spy Kids set surveillance to catch bad guys

This is the ninth episode in a multi-story spy adventure involving North Texas kids Emma, Josh and Juan. Be sure to read all of the stories in future editions of neighborsgo now through December during the "The Science of Spying" exhibit at the Museum of Nature & Science in Dallas. Past stories can be found at [neighborsgo.com/connect](http://neighborsgo.com/connect) or [natureandscience.org/spying](http://natureandscience.org/spying).

**MORE INFO**

Puzzles, games and past episodes of the Spy Kids series can be found at [natureandscience.org/spying](http://natureandscience.org/spying). Visit Emma's Facebook page at [facebook.com/spykid](http://facebook.com/spykid) or follow along on Twitter: @EmmaSpyKid

Emma, her brother, Josh, and their friend, Juan, cruised past the trash can on the nature path around the Leonhardt Lagoon at the Museum of Nature & Science. No one else was nearby.

Juan and Josh used a tape measure to find out how far the trash bin was from the walkway, and Juan wrote that number down in a notebook. He and Josh returned to their hide-out. They had brought Juan's laptop to look at the images sent by the mini webcams.

Emma stayed to place the tiny observation tools. The three used their walkie-talkie wristwatches to speak to each other while she moved the mini webcams around as a test. It took a while and some changes to find the best spots.

Emma finally joined the boys. They saw how the webcam transmitted the image of the trash can and its surroundings to the screen of Juan's laptop.

"How will we keep track of all of the video feeds?" Josh asked.

"I'll look at it a couple of times every day and get rid of any video that we don't need," Juan said.

"Sounds like a plan," Emma replied. "Now we're going to see how they can find the bad guys when they don't have video to catch them in the act."

She led her brother and their friend to the Putting DNA to Work exhibit in the Science Building. At the exhibit, the spy kids were especially impressed by how

DNA, a biological tool, helps investigators sort out who committed a crime when other evidence might point to more than one person.

Once they were back in the lobby, a poster on the wall caught Juan's attention, and he left to check into it.

"DNA helps nab the truly guilty," Josh said. "And helps free those wrongfully convicted," Emma added.

Juan returned with fliers in his hand. "More spy stuff! On Nov. 12, Oliver 'Buck' Revell is speaking at the museum. He spent the last of his 30 years at the FBI as the associate deputy director in charge of all the

agency's counter-terrorism activities. He is going to discuss the law enforcement view of terrorism."

"Cool," Emma and Josh said in unison.

"Then, on Dec. 3, Jim Olson will speak about how America is losing secrets to spies among us," Juan added.

"That's like the guys we are tracking," Emma pointed out. "The ones we suspect are dealing with a stolen microchip."

They all agreed that they would be coming back to the museum soon, whether or not their webcam showed them anything else about their own spy adventure.

— By Cynthia Stine on behalf of the Museum of Nature & Science. Contact her at [cynthia@promotesuccesspr.com](mailto:cynthia@promotesuccesspr.com)



## Solving Crimes with DNA

DNA is in every part of the human body. It forms the basic building blocks of genes, which determine the unique physical traits (like human fingerprints) of every living thing.

The Putting DNA to Work exhibit at the Museum of Science & Nature fasci-

nates Spy Kids Emma, Josh and Juan. It shows how law enforcement authorities use DNA as evidence to catch those suspected of committing a crime.

What eight body parts might police collect at a crime scene to analyze for DNA identification?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Hot and red, I go to your head.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Long and strong, I help you along.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Curly or straight, I protect your eyes great.
- \_\_\_\_\_ When you're caught red-handed, this tells the tale.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contained or bare, I'm always there.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wet and sticky, this DNA source is icky.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I keep it all in — I'm your....
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lose one of these, feel lots of grief.

## Another DNA Quiz

Can you guess how similar your DNA is to the following?

- Another human being?
- A chimpanzee?
- A mouse?
- A fruit fly?
- Yeast?
- A weed?



4. 44 percent similar. Studies of fruit flies have shown how shared genes govern the growth and structure of both insects and mammals. 5. 26 percent similar. Yeasts are single-celled organisms, but they have many housekeeping genes that are the same as the genes in humans, such as those that enable energy to be derived from the breakdown of sugars. 6. 18 percent similar. Plants have many metabolic differences from humans. For example, they use sunlight to convert carbon dioxide gas to sugars. But they also have similarities in their housekeeping genes.
- Quiz 2:
- 100 percent similar. All human beings have the same genes, but some of these genes contain sequence differences that make each person unique.
  - 98 percent similar. Chimpanzees are the closest living species to humans.
  - 92 percent similar. All mammals are quite similar genetically.

