Wildlife crime mystery - 'The killing in the woods'

Teacher answer sheet

1. It was Easter, the school holidays had begun and Ceri was looking forward to spending time with Scooby, the spaniel they had brought home recently from the dog’s home.

2. Before leaving for work, Mum asked Ceri to take Scooby for a walk – spaniels have so much energy.

3. Ceri decided to take Scooby for a walk along the public footpath in the woods.

4. As Ceri texted her friend Scooby ran off ahead.

5. Ceri was shocked to find the remains of a dead rabbit tied to the fence between the field and the woods.


7. Ceri left the footpath to look for Scooby.

8. Ceri found the body lying on its back at the base of a tree.

9. The body did not appear to have any wounds or injuries.

10. Looking down, Ceri saw a ring on the body.

11. Ceri put Scooby on the lead, and being careful not to touch the body, took a photo of the scene using her phone.

12. Ceri phoned her Dad to get advice.

13. Dad contacted the police, explained the situation and asked Ceri to wait on the footpath until the officers arrived.

14. The police officers asked Ceri questions and investigated the crime scene.

15. Following a search of the area, the police discovered an empty pesticide container.

16. The body was removed and taken away by the police.
17. Tests revealed that poison was present in the body.

18. Later at home Scooby was sick and very sleepy. Ceri was worried so Mum took Scooby to the vet.

19. Scooby was examined by the vet who took a blood test.

20. The blood test revealed that Scooby had also been poisoned.

21. After treatment Scooby made a full recovery.

22. The local newspaper reported the events and the police asked for information from the public.

23. The RSPB offered a reward of £1000 for information leading to a conviction.

24. The police officers interviewed the local land owner.

25. Some weeks later the police arrested and charged a local person.

26. The person was found guilty and received a £2000 fine and a suspended prison sentence.

Background card

A police spokesperson said "Leaving poisoned baits in the countryside to kill birds of prey is illegal. The banned pesticide used in this case is highly toxic and could of easily harmed members of the public or their pets."