

LESSON 3-8: WHAT TYPE ARE YOU?

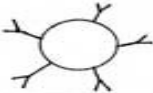


A LESSON ON INHERITANCE OF BLOOD TYPES

Blood and bloodstains can be important evidence in a criminal investigation. Blood evidence is often used to associate a suspect with a crime or crime scene. From a forensic point of view, blood has several important factors or types. Three of these factors are the ABO system, the MNS system, and the Rh factors.

The ABO Blood System

The ABO system may be most familiar to you because of its importance in blood transfusions. The letters A and B represent two different types of antigens, or molecules, that can be found on the surfaces of red blood cells. A person's red blood cells can be covered with one of the antigens, both of the antigens, or neither of the antigens. Blood types are a reflection of the antigens on the blood cells. There are four ABO blood types (see Table 1).

TABLE 1
ABO blood types are determined by the presence or absence of antigens on the cells.

<i>Blood type</i>	<i>Name of antigens on blood cells</i>	<i>Blood cells with antigens</i>
A	A	
B	B	
AB	AB	
O	NONE	