

THE TRIAL OF SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

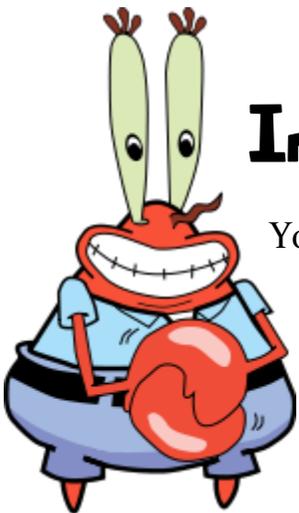
FOR THE MURDER OF MR. KRABS



Murder under the Sea!

The city of Bikini Bottom has been rocked with news of the death of Mr. Krabs, owner of the Krusty Krab restaurant. From the moment the under-water police discovered the gruesome scene, they suspected foul play. At first, they thought the killer might be Sheldon Plankton, owner of the Chum Bucket restaurant and long-time rival of Mr. Krabs. But no physical evidence could be tied to Plankton. As the investigation progressed, more and more of the evidence pointed to one of Mr. Krabs's employees, none other than SpongeBob SquarePants himself.

SpongeBob insists that he's innocent. The authorities don't buy Mr. SquarePants's claims, but he has found a team of defense lawyers who do. Some of the evidence does, in fact, seem to indicate that SpongeBob's story might actually be true. Whatever really happened, this is shaping up to be the trial of the underwater century!

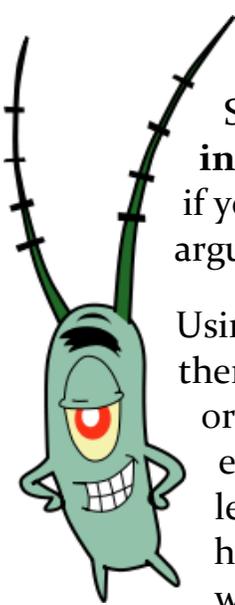


Instructions

You will serve as a lawyer in this case. You can choose to either serve as **the prosecution** (who want to prove SpongeBob is guilty) or **the defense** (who want to prove that he might be innocent).

Below is a list of **evidence** tied to the investigation. Some of the evidence helps the prosecution's case against Mr. SquarePants, while other pieces of evidence might help the defense's case. Your assignment is to come up with **three or four evidence-based arguments** that will help you prove your case.

- The **prosecution** needs to prove *without a doubt* that SpongeBob murdered Mr. Krabs (use evidence to show how and why he did it and to prove that he's *definitely* guilty.)
- The **defense**, on the other hand, only has to prove that SpongeBob *might* be innocent (this means you have to use evidence to show that Mr. Krabs's death *could* have been caused by someone or something else.)



Decide which pieces of evidence help your case. Think what each piece of evidence proves and how it might help logically prove that SpongeBob **must be guilty** (if you're the prosecution) or that he **might be innocent** (if you're the defense.) Most pieces of evidence don't prove much if you take them individually, but several facts used together can help you argue your case.

Using the evidence worksheet, group several pieces of evidence together and then explain what those pieces of evidence prove. Each of your arguments **for** or **against** SpongeBob could be based on anywhere from two items of evidence up to five or six items of evidence. Your explanation should be at least a couple full sentences long. In a moment, you'll look at an example of how you might do this if you were arguing in Plankton's defense (which you won't be because he's not the one on trial.)

On the back of your Team Sheet you should present a **closing statement** that summarizes the main points of your arguments (what you have proved.)



(EXAMPLE) Plankton's Defense

Put together evidence to prove that Plankton *might* be innocent.

11. Plankton has a long history of trying to sabotage Mr. Krabs's restaurant and steal his secret recipes.
13. Three days after Mr. Krabs's death, Plankton began selling a crab burger recipe on his website, www.chumbucket.ocean. The recipe was very similar to Mr. Krabs's Krabby Patty recipe, but it wasn't exactly the same.
14. During a search of Plankton's home, investigators did NOT find the Krabby Patty recipe or any spatulas.
22. Plankton said that the recipe he started selling on his website was one that he created with the help of his computerized wife, Karen. He affirmed that he did not steal Mr. Krabs's Krabby Patty recipe and that he did not kill Mr. Krabs.

Evidence Items # 11 # 13 # 14 # 22 # _____ # _____

When you put these pieces of evidence together, what do they prove?

The recipe that Plankton started selling online was not exactly the same as Mr. Krabs's recipe. Why would he steal the Krabby Patty recipe just to change it? The fact that they couldn't find the recipe when they searched Plankton's home means they have **no proof** that he stole anything or killed anyone. It is possible that his story about creating the recipe is true.

Make sure you explain what your evidence proves. (It would be good to use phrases like "This proves that..." or "This shows that...")

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Crime Scene Evidence

1. Mr. Krabs was found dead inside of the Krusty Krab restaurant. His throat had been cut. The coroner concluded that the wound on Mr. Krabs's throat was caused by a metal spatula.
2. There was a spatula found next to the body. It was covered in Mr. Krabs's blood, but so was everything else around it. The spatula had several sets of fingerprints, including SpongeBob's, Squidward's, and Mr. Krabs's.
3. The coroner concluded that Mr. Krabs had bled to death, but the victim also had signs of blunt-force trauma to the back of his head.
4. The floor in the Krusty Krab restaurant was covered with Mr. Krabs's blood, but it was also very slick with cooking grease—several of the crime scene investigators slipped and fell during the investigation.
5. SpongeBob's footprints were found all over on the greasy floor around Mr. Krabs's body, along with the footprints of many other people. His footprints were NOT found in the blood puddle.
6. There was no sign of a break-in at the restaurant.
7. The Krusty Krab cash register was completely empty.
8. Mr. Krabs's safe was found open, and the recipe for his Krabby Patty was NOT found in it.
9. There was a tiny cut on Mr. Krabs's finger, but it was partially healed. Investigators concluded that this cut happened several weeks before Mr. Krabs's death.

Suspect Evidence

10. SpongeBob has worked at the Krusty Krab restaurant for years. In all that time, he has never received a raise.
11. Plankton has a long history of trying to sabotage Mr. Krabs's restaurant and steal his secret recipes.

12. Inside SpongeBob's home, investigators found a spatula with traces of Mr. Krabs's blood on it. The spatula handle had SpongeBob's fingerprints, as well as Mr. Krabs's.
13. Three days after Mr. Krabs's death, Plankton began selling a crab burger recipe on his website, www.chumbucket.ocean. The recipe was very similar to Mr. Krabs's Krabby Patty recipe, but it wasn't exactly the same.
14. During a search of Plankton's home, investigators did NOT find the Krabby Patty recipe or any spatulas.
15. SpongeBob was the only person other than Mr. Krabs who had keys to the restaurant and knew the combination to the safe.
16. Two days after Mr. Krabs's death, Plankton went to the bank and paid the remainder of SpongeBob's pineapple house loan. Plankton says he did this out of the goodness of his heart.

Witness Testimony

17. Sandy testified that SpongeBob was desperately in need of money because the bank was going to repossess his pineapple house. She said SpongeBob had recently asked Mr. Krabs for a raise. Mr. Krabs denied him, stating that the business wasn't doing very well and there wasn't enough money to give anyone a raise. SpongeBob was pretty upset.
18. Patrick said that SpongeBob told him, "Mr. Krabs is a greedy pig. He's gonna wish he'd given me a raise!"
19. SpongeBob said that he went to the Krusty Krab restaurant the morning of Mr. Krabs's death in order to beg one last time for a raise. When Mr. Krabs denied him again, SpongeBob told him that he quit. Then he left and went home to his pineapple. He said he believed that Mr. Krabs would have a difficult time replacing him and that he'd regret losing his best employee.
20. Squidward saw SpongeBob enter the Krusty Krab restaurant two hours before Mr. Krabs was found dead. An hour later, he heard Mr. Krabs screaming loudly. After waiting a while, Squidward went into the restaurant to investigate, and that's when he found the dead body.
21. SpongeBob testified that two weeks before Mr. Krabs's death, Mr. Krabs accidentally cut his finger on a spatula. SpongeBob offered to take it home to get it clean, but then he forgot to bring it back to the restaurant.
22. Plankton said that the recipe he started selling on his website was one that he created with the help of his computerized wife, Karen. He affirmed that he did not steal Mr. Krabs's Krabby Patty recipe and that he did not kill Mr. Krabs.
23. Patrick said he went to the Krusty Krab four hours before Mr. Krabs was found dead. The restaurant was locked, so Patrick knocked on the door. Mr. Krabs came out looking very upset. He told Patrick that the Krusty Krab was closed and that he might never sell another Krabby Patty again.

Name/Names:

The Defense Team

Put together evidence to prove that SpongeBob *might* be innocent.

Evidence Items # _____ # _____ # _____ # _____ # _____ # _____

When you put these pieces of evidence together, what do they prove?

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When you put these pieces of evidence together, what do they prove?

Evidence Items # _____ # _____ # _____ # _____ # _____ # _____

When you put these pieces of evidence together, what do they prove?

Name/Names:

The Prosecution Team

Put together evidence to prove that SpongeBob is *definitely* guilty.

Evidence Items # _____ # _____ # _____ # _____ # _____ # _____

When you put these pieces of evidence together, what do they prove?

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