Race in the Skeleton

Human Biology and Forensics
B.M.C. Durfee High School
Objectives

• Identify and describe the characteristics of the three basic categories of race identification that forensic anthropologist use.

• Describe ways of identifying bone trauma and malnutrition in the human skeleton.
Race Introduction

- Use the skull, pelvis and long bones
- Usually Done by Caucasoid, Negroid and Mongoloid
- Most is Done in the Face and Skull
Caucasoid - European

• Nasal sill, in caucasoids there is a dam or nasal sill that stops a pen from running into nasal opening

• Retreating Zygomas: put skull face up and lay pencil across nasal apperature; can fit finger between malars and pencil
Caucasoid – European...

- No prognathism; pencil in anterior nasal spine; pencil touches face since face is flatter
- Long narrow face
- Narrow nasal opening
- Narrow high bridge nose
Negroid - African

- No dam or nasal sill; pen glides in – nasal guttering
- Prognathism pen cannot touch chin, juts forward
Negroid – African...

- Rounded forehead
- Wide nasal opening
- Dense bone
- Anterional bow of femur is straighter
Mongoloid - Asian

- Nasal sill between two extremes
- Flatter face, cheek bones extend forward, can’t get finger between malars and pencil – projecting zygomas
Mongoloid – Asian...

- Edge to edge bite
- Shovel shaped incisors (inside tooth) enamel extension on inside
Other Features in the Bones

• Trauma
Other Features in the Bones...

- Infections
Other Features in the Bones...

• Osteoporosis
Other Features in the Bones...

- Dietary Deficiencies: scurvy, rickets
Other Features in the Bones...

• Nutrition:
  – Enamel Hypoplasia
  – Cribria Orbitalis
  – Spikes in Sagital suture
Other Features in the Bones...

- Syphilis
Review

• Identify and describe the characteristics of the three basic categories of race identification that forensic anthropologists use.

• Describe ways of identifying bone trauma and malnutrition in the human skeleton.
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