THE GREAT BONE MYSTERY #1

Several sections of a skeleton are discovered in a heavily forested, little visited park near a school. The area where the bones are discovered was once the site of a lumber mill. Little of the lumber mill is left. Over the past ten years, the location has been reclaimed by hundreds of trees and shrubs. An old, partially rotted board with a ten inch spike protruding from one end is found near the skeleton.

As you read the bones clues listed below, decide what each one tells you about the mystery skeleton.

A. There are braces on the mandible of the cranium.

B. The top of the femur is wide and flat. The length of the femur is 40 centimeters.

C. This is the right hand:

D. The pelvis is very wide.

E. The right side edge of the sternum is broken and splintered inward.
F. On the inside rear of the ribcage, the fourth rib is nicked. The nicked bone is surrounded by crumbly rust.

G. A sneaker is found on the left foot. The interior of the sneaker has a residue of foot powder in it.

H. A watch is on the left wrist. It stopped at 12:01.

I. A deflated basketball is found near the skeleton.

J. The tattered remnants of a tee-shirt and gym shorts are clinging to the skeleton.

*Summarize your findings here:
  Sex of victim:
  Age of victim:
  Height of victim:
  Time of death:

*Write a possible scenario to explain how this death occurred.

*Write a Safety Tip that might prevent this type accident from happening to someone else.
THE GREAT BONE MYSTERY #2

A partial skeleton is found on the banks of a mountain creek. The bank is quite steep with loose rock and gravel covering its slope. The creek bed is also composed of loose rock and gravel, washed down by the sometimes turbulent waters of the creek.

As you read the bones clues listed below, decide what each one tells you about the mystery skeleton.

A. Many fillings are found in the teeth of mandible and maxilla. The eye orbits are rectangular.

B. The humerus is 34 centimeters long.

C. Here is the left hand:

D. An old cane is found in the victim's right hand.

E. None of the bones seems damaged.

F. The pelvis is narrow. There is a metal pin in the lower right side of the pelvis.
G. The femur is extremely brittle. Close examination shows only a thin layer of calcium on the bone.

H. A tattered shirt is clinging to the rib cage. The shirt pocket contains the water-stained remains of a Bingo card.

I. The victim's left arm is clinging to a broken tree branch.

J. A smashed watch is found on the victim's left hand. It is stopped at 1:30.

*Summarize your findings here:
   Sex of victim:
   Age of victim:
   Height of victim:
   Time of death:

*Write a possible scenario to explain how this death occurred.

*Write a Safety Tip that might prevent this type accident from happening to someone else.