

The SKUNK BEAR SKELETON VIDEO

There's an old skeleton hanging in the art room of this art school in Erie, Pennsylvania. It isn't plastic. It's made of real bones that belonged to a real person. But no one knows who that person was.

Not the art teacher, Mrs. Leasure.

'I have no idea where he came from. It could have been here for a hundred years.'

Not the principal, Mr. Vieira.

'The lore is it came from The Ganges. We consistently hear that it's male, based on the bone structure.'

Not my friend Elisa Natworny. She went to school here and now she works with me at NPR.

'When I found out my school had a skeleton, I wanted to find out everything I could about it.'

'So here at Skunk Bear, we decided to see what science could tell us about these bones.'

On TV, they always start with one thing.

'Her DNA ...DNA ... DNA sample ...'

So we took the skeleton to a DNA expert at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, Dr. Logan Kestler. And asked, 'Can you get DNA from an old skeleton ?'

'It's probably going to take four to six weeks of lab work analysis,... might cost of up to \$5,000 (five-thousand dollars).

OK. So, no DNA analysis.

We needed to find someone who could tell us something by just looking at the bones.

So we went back to Erie – to Mercyhurst University – where we met Dennis Dirkmaat.

He reads bones for a living, working with law enforcement to identify remains associated with crimes.

'There's a lot of information to be told from the skeleton.

He called in some colleagues to measure every inch of our skeleton.

First up – is this skeleton a man like everyone thinks ?

'We usually start with the pelvis.'

Females have broader pelvises to make childbirth easier.

FOR THE WHOLE VIDEO GO TO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJ7A6Nw0My4>