**Sex Determination Activity**

**Objective**: Determine the sex of each pelvis using the following process

**Method**:

1. Determine the sub-pubic angle of the pelvis: situate your protractor so that the black dot, located at the base of the protractor, is positioned at the midline of the pubic symphysis where the ramus of each ischium would meet if the bones continued onward. Align the “0” baseline with the ramus of the left ischium and determine the degree of the angle formed by the two rami of the ischium bones. Record your results in your table.
2. Use the Vernier caliper to measure the pubis body width. Start at the middle of the lateral edge of the pubic symphysis and measure across to the medial edge of the obturator foramen. Record your results in your table.
3. Locate the greater sciatic notch and use the follow method to measure its angle: Place the pelvis posterior-side down on a piece of paper and turn it in such a way that the greater sciatic notch is closest to the paper. Use a straight edge to go over the lines you have just made and extend those lines until they meet to form an angle. Use your protractor to measure angle you have just drawn by following the same technique listed in Step 1. Record your results in your table.
4. Locate the sacrum and the coccyx. Hold the pelvis in such a way that the pubic symphysis is facing down and parallel to the table top. Hold the pelvic cavity at eye level in order to observe its shape properly. Is the opening circular and wide, showing mainly coccyx, or is it more heart-shaped, showing a large portion of the sacrum and the coccyx? Record your results in your table.
5. Repeat this process for 3 other pelvises.

**Results**:

**Pelvis Number**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Measurement |  |  |  |  |
| **Sub-pubic angle:**  **(degrees)** |  |  |  |  |
| **Pubis body width**  **(mm)** |  |  |  |  |
| **Greater sciatic notch angle:**  **(degrees)** |  |  |  |  |
| **Pelvic Cavity**  **(description)** |  |  |  |  |

**Conclusion:**

Once you have completed your table, make a determination for the each pelvis using the following format:

**Claim:**

(example: Pelvis number 4 appears to be that of a female based on the measurements taken during examination.

**Evidence:**

(example: the sub-pubic angle measured 93 degrees, the pubis body width measured 38mm, the greater sciatic notch measured 75 degrees and the pelvic cavity was broad, showing mainly the coccyx and little of the sacrum upon inspection.)

**Reasoning:**

(example: the measurements of Pelvis number 4 are consistent with the

known averages for female pelvises. In addition to the measurements

listed above the following observations also support this claim: the illium are dish shaped and open and the pubic symphysis is less rigid than male specimens.) Therefore, with reasonable forensic certainty, it can be concluded Pelvis number 4 came from a female subject.