

Name _____

The Green River Killer: Unmasking Gary Ridgway

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The Green River was significant in the case because the killer would dump his victims' bodies along the Green River, which is how he earned the name "Green River Killer." It also served as a challenging location for law enforcement to search for evidence and remains.
2. Advances in DNA technology helped solve the case by providing concrete evidence linking Ridgway to the crimes. DNA analysis allowed authorities to match Ridgway's DNA to evidence found on victims, providing irrefutable proof of his involvement.
3. The ethical considerations surrounding Ridgway's plea deal involve the decision not to pursue the death penalty in exchange for his cooperation and confession. Some may argue that this spared the families of the victims from prolonged legal proceedings, while others may believe he should have faced the death penalty for his crimes.
4. This case had a significant impact on the community and law enforcement by highlighting the importance of advancements in forensic technology. It also led to changes in the way authorities approach and investigate serial murder cases, emphasizing the use of DNA evidence and cooperation with convicted killers to locate missing victims and solve cold cases.

