Crimewatch

http://www.whtimes.co.uk/news/crimewatch_appeal_brings_new_leads_in_armed_robbery_probe_1_903424

Name _____ Date _____

Watch the reconstruction. Then read the 'What happened?' sheet. Now answer the questions.

1. Where does the woman who was attacked live?

2. On what date did the attack happen?

3. When did the last person leave the party?

4. What room was the woman in when she was attacked?

5. What is the woman's full name?

6. What did the men use to hurt the woman?

7. How many children were in the house at the time of the attack?

8. Where was the woman dragged to?

9. What was in the garage that the men wanted access to?

10. What did the men take?

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What happened?

Last summer a gang of masked men burst into the home of a young mother, with two children in the house. They subjected her to a violent attack, but escaped with little of value. Now police are appealing to the public to find out who did this - and why.

On Friday 23 July 2010, Lorraine Mitchell spent the day hosting a party for her daughter's school class. The guests went home, leaving just her, her daughter, and her daughter's friend in the house.

At around 11.20pm, as she was clearing the kitchen, a gang of around seven masked men burst into her kitchen. She was punched, hit with a brick and dragged around by her hair and clothes.

The gang even threatened to drown her daughter Megan, 11, who needed counselling following the ordeal, and her 13-year-old friend, who was later physically sick.

Lorraine said: "I was loading the dishwasher when a man came in wearing a balaclava.

"At first I thought it was a practical joke. Then he gave me a belt around the face and I fell to the floor and I realised it wasn't a joke."

The masked men frogmarched the children into the garden and continued to hit Lorraine in the kitchen. They tied her wrists together with cable and demanded to know where her husband was.

Lorraine who is separated from husband, told them he was not there.

She said: "They just kept beating me and I was saying: 'Please don't touch the children'. I was absolutely petrified for the kids."

Lorraine insisted there was nothing of value in the house - but the violence continued. Even more frustratingly, her attackers never specified what they were looking for.

She was dragged to the garage in front of the children, where the men tried to break into an empty and disused safe.

Megan was pleading with them to "leave my mummy alone" and offered them her iPhone.

They ransacked the upstairs rooms before making off with a jewellery box, a cash box containing about £1000 and Lorraine's car keys.

They dumped her silver Range Rover Sport at the bottom of the road and drove away in another vehicle.

Hertfordshire police are investigating and there is a £10,000 reward for information leading to a conviction.