

# Fascinating Forensics

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## Finding Fingerprints

Forensic scientists use fingerprints and other scientific techniques to create evidence that helps solve crimes.

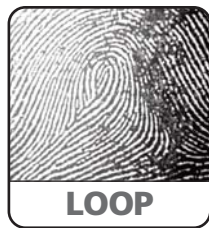
The pattern of ridges on your fingers will not match any other human.

These ridges leave a print on anything you touch and hold. This is because sweat and oils ooze from tiny pores or holes on your skin. Some surfaces such as a clothing will absorb the oils but harder surfaces do not.

We can group or classify different types of fingerprints based on their pattern.



**ARCH**



**LOOP**



**WHORL**

Using the techniques on the next page you can take the fingerprints of your friends or family. Or **why not see if you can find fingerprints around your house? What type of fingerprints do you have?**

## Taking Fingerprints

You will need:

- Ink pad
- Fingerprint grid in this booklet or sheet of paper
- Magnifying glass
- Sink or wipes to wash your hands afterwards

- Roll the end of the finger you want to print on the ink pad.
- Gently roll the finger within one of the boxes and label whose it is.

**What type of fingerprint is it?**



## Lifting Fingerprints

Please ask an adult for permission before you do this in your house.

You will need:

- Chalk stick
- Sticky tape
- Paint brush
- Magnifying glass
- Small bowl or cup

- Carefully crush some of the chalk into a bowl or cup using the hard end of the paintbrush.
- Press your finger onto a surface to create a fingerprint (without ink) or find somewhere where you think there is a fingerprint. Shiny hard surfaces such as a glass, plates or window work well.

- Dip the brush into the powder and carefully dust it onto the fingerprint. The dust will stick to the grease from your finger.
- Carefully blow or brush off excess powder.
- Lay a piece of sticky tape onto the finger print. Press the tape down flat then carefully peel it off.
- Stick the tape onto a coloured piece of paper to make it easier to see.

**Can you see the fingerprint?**

**Does it match any of the prints you made?**

**Can you tell whose it is?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Right thumb	Right index finger	Right middle finger	Right ring finger	Right little finger
Left thumb	Left index finger	Left middle finger	Left ring finger	Left little finger

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Right thumb	Right index finger	Right middle finger	Right ring finger	Right little finger
Left thumb	Left index finger	Left middle finger	Left ring finger	Left little finger

**Did you know?**

**Koalas have fingerprints that are hard to tell apart from humans.**

**The first criminal fingerprint identification was made in 1892 and they are still used today alongside newer scientific methods like DNA profiling.**

