

Loops, Whorls, or Arches

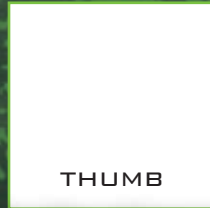
DID YOU KNOW...

- No two people have the same fingerprints—not even identical twins!
- Fingerprints are the most commonly used forensic evidence.
- The FBI has a database with over 470 million fingerprints.

Are all YOUR fingers alike? Are there similarities or differences among members of your family's fingerprints? Let's find out!

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Pencil
- Balloon



WHAT TO DO...

- Rub your pencil in each of the above boxes until they are completely filled in.
- Blow up a balloon to about the same size as a baseball and tie it loosely.
- Press each finger into one of the boxes, then gently press it against the balloon. Use a different part of the balloon for each finger!
- Blow up the balloon larger. Watch the fingerprints EXPAND.

NOW, CLASSIFY YOUR FINGERPRINTS INTO THE DIFFERENT TYPES...

Do different family members have different fingerprints?
How many different types of fingerprints can you find among your family and friends?



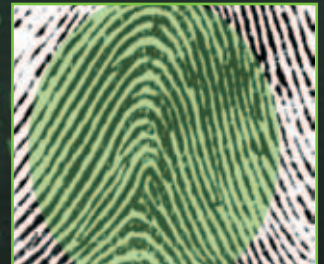
LOOP

The most common type of print; some ridges enter and exit on the same side of the finger.



WHORL

The ridges form a circular pattern.



ARCH

The least common type of print; ridges run from one side of the finger to the other.

WHO was the first person convicted by DNA evidence?

WHICH famous criminal tried using acid to remove his fingerprints? (and did it work?)

WHEN was forensic science first used to solve a crime? (HINT: It was in China!)

Put your SLEUTHING SKILLS to the test with these questions and more at the **ONLINE SCAVENGER HUNT**.
<http://forensics.rice.edu/hunt>

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