

FINGERPRINT CHARACTERISTICS

Instructions

First, review and discuss with your group the different types of fingerprints and characteristics.



Fingerprint Characteristics



Ridge Characteristics:

Ridge Ending: Where a ridge ends abruptly.

Bifurcation: A ridge splits into two.

Lake: A single ridge separates and then rejoins, forming a small oval shape within the ridge.

Independent Ridge: Small ridges found between ridges on both sides.

Spur: Where a short section of a ridge separates from a continuing ridge and ends in the space between two parallel ridges.

Leave Your Print

1. Using the provided ink pad, gently press the pad of your index finger straight down onto the ink. Don't roll or move it around.
2. Carefully lift your finger straight up from the pad.
3. Place your inked finger flat on a clean piece of paper. Press down firmly and evenly, then lift straight up.
4. Label any fingerprint types and characteristics you notice in your own print.

FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION

The following image is of a right index fingerprint lifted from a bag at a crime scene.



Below are fingerprints of the right index fingers of four key suspects in this crime.

1. Analyze the fingerprints.
2. Match and identify the suspect responsible for the crime.
3. Referencing the Fingerprint Characteristics handout, match the ridge characteristics of the identified suspects and the fingerprint lifted at the crime scene.
4. Discuss as a group the matching characteristics and the process of identifying and matching fingerprints.



Suspect #1



Suspect #2



Suspect #3



Suspect #4