Fingerprinting

Materials
- Non-toxic ink pad
- Fingerprint card
- Hand wipes

15-20 minutes

Your fingerprints are unique and no one has the same set as you, even if you are an identical twin! Forensic investigators use fingerprints to identify people, but they aren’t the only ones. For example, technology uses fingerprints to secure things like your phone. Not only do your fingerprints help identify you, but the ridges also help us hold on to things. Everyone has a unique set of fingerprints, see what type of pattern you have!

Instructions

1. Roll your finger from side to side on the ink pad, and make sure that you cover the entire finger pad with ink.

2. Carefully, place your inked finger on the fingerprint sheet (on page three).

3. Look closely at your fingerprint. Compare your fingerprint to the examples on the next page to see if you have a loop, a whorl, or an arch.

4. Repeat to capture all your fingerprints.

5. Use a wipe to clean off your fingertips.

Scale it down for younger learners: If your young scientist is having a hard time seeing the patterns on the paper, have them place their fingerprint on a balloon, then blow it up! The fingerprint will enlarge when you blow up the balloon.
# Fingerprinting

## Right Hand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thumb</th>
<th>Index Finger</th>
<th>Middle Finger</th>
<th>Ring Finger</th>
<th>Pinky Finger</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## Left Hand

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