

**Activity Name:** Getting Familiar with Fingerprints

**Activity Description:** Students learn to identify different types of fingerprint characteristics.

**Suggested Grade Level / Age Range:** 5-8 years old

**Science Content Covered** (just provide keywords - *example - heat, light, energy*):

External Characteristics of Organisms and Structure/Function of Organisms

**Time needed to complete the activity:** 12-15 minutes.

**Materials Required (per student):**

- pencil
- piece of paper
- fingerprinting worksheet
- tape
- wet paper towels/baby wipes

**Directions as well as Activity Success Tips for Parents and Teachers:**

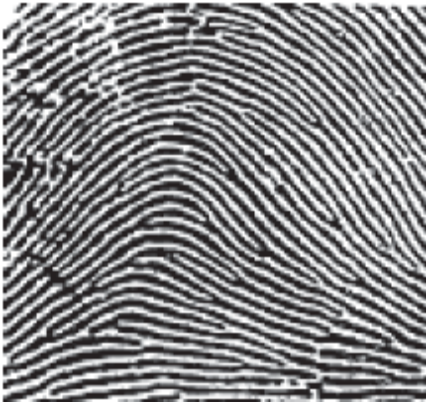
1. Children will be presented with a pencil, tape, a piece of paper, and a fingerprinting worksheet.
2. Children will rub the pencil on the plain piece of paper to create the “inkpad”
3. Then the children will rub their finger (up to the joint) over the “inkpad” they just created.
4. Using a piece of tape the children will then place the tape on the lead side of their finger to capture their fingerprint.
5. Then they will carefully remove the tape from their finger (**keeping in mind not to touch their print!!**) and place the tape on the corresponding box (pinky print placed in pinky box and index finger placed in index finger box).
6. When children are done using the inkpad, allow them to wipe their fingers off with a wet paper towel/baby wipe
7. Once children are finished creating their prints, they will analyze their prints and classify them into the 3 different types of fingerprints
  - a. W for Whorl
  - b. A for Arch
  - c. L for Loop
  - d. M for Mixture

- i. Each letter will be placed in the corresponding box that matches the correct fingerprint.

Insert Any Images / Photos / Drawings needed to help describe or explain the activity:

- o *Fingerprinting boxes*

Thumb	Index	Middle	Ring	Pinky
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



*Arch Fingerprint*



*Loop Fingerprint*



*Whorl Fingerprint*

Possible follow-up, extension activities or ideas for children and parents to explore (with references or urls):

Ask children questions such as: What did you observe? , Who has loops, arches, or whorls? , Were there any mixtures? , Can you see the differences in the patterns? How do our fingerprints identify us as individuals (no one has a exact identical fingerprints)?

**Safety comments / considerations:**

Be careful not to allow children to put fingers in their mouth when lead is on their fingers after creating the fingerprint.

Wash fingers immediately after completing the prints!

If your activity should be credited to any specific source or citation - indicate that here:

NSTA Website Article: The Home Zone: Science and Children Get Familiar with Fingerprints

So we can make sure your organization gets credit for your participation and we refer people accurately to your organization:

Your Organization's Official Contact Person name & Title: **Christine Royce, Associate Professor Shippensburg University**

Your Organizations Web Site: **[www.ship.edu](http://www.ship.edu)**

Your Organization's Official Contact Person Phone #: **717-477-1681**

Your Organization's Official Contact Person e-mail: **[caroyc@ship.edu](mailto:caroyc@ship.edu)**