Fingerprints

No two fingerprints are **exactly alike**. But how is each one **unique**? Here’s a way to find out!

1. In order to see your **fingerprint**, you need to make a **print** of it. Take a pencil and **scribble** on a piece of paper until you have a **big black mark**. Then firmly press your index finger (the one next to your thumb) in the mark, and rock it gently side to side.

2. Now get some clear **tape**. Put a piece of it over your finger, **press down** (don’t rub!), and pull the tape off. Then **attach** the tape to the fingerprint chart. Look at it **closely**. What **type** of fingerprint do you have? A whorl, arch, loop, or something else? **Write** it on the chart.

3. **Collect** your friends’ fingerprints and **attach** them to the chart. How many kids have **loops**, **whorls**, or **arches**? What was the **most frequent type** of fingerprint among you and your friends?

---

**Science Scoop**

What makes a fingerprint? The skin on your fingertip has a **pattern** of ridges on it. **Sweat and oil** get trapped in the ridges and make a sticky film. When you touch something, the **sticky film** gets left behind and makes a fingerprint. Everyone has **ridges** on the tips of their fingers but no two fingerprints are exactly alike. Scientists **compare** fingerprints and group them according to the **similar ridge patterns** they find. Most people’s fingerprints look like a **whorl**, **loop**, or **arch**. What does yours look like?

---

Keep **experimenting** with fingerprints. Are the prints on all of your fingers **similar**? Do your toes have **toe prints**? How could you **lift** a fingerprint off an object? **Try it out** and send your results to ZOOM at pbskids.org/zoom.
Chart Your Fingerprints

Attach each fingerprint to the chart and fill in whether it’s a loop, whorl, or arch!

Fingerprint Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Fingerprint</th>
<th>Type of fingerprint (loop, whorl, arch)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Send an e-mail: pbskids.org/zoom/sendit

Then instantly print out a copy of ZOOMerang—a newsletter filled with cast trivia and lots of fun ZOOM activities.

Or, send a letter:

ZOOM
Box 350
Boston, MA 02134

Don’t forget to include your name and return address so we can send you a copy of ZOOMerang.