

34.1

Examine Your Fingerprints

Fingerprints play a major role in any police investigation. Because a fingerprint is an individual characteristic, extensive FBI fingerprint files are used for identification in criminal cases.

Procedure

- 1 Press your thumb lightly on the surface of an ink pad.
- 2 Roll your thumb from left to right across the corner of an index card, then immediately lift your thumb straight up from the paper.
- 3 Repeat the steps above for your other four fingers, placing the prints in order across the card.
- 4 Examine your fingerprints with a magnifying lens, identifying the patterns in each by comparing them with the diagrams on page 895 of your text.
- 5 Compare your fingerprints with those of your classmates.

Analysis

1. Are the fingerprint patterns on your five fingers identical?

2. Do any of your fingerprints show the same patterns as those of a classmate?

3. How can a fingerprint be used to identify a person?
