



Take it home:

# FANTASTIC FINGERPRINTS

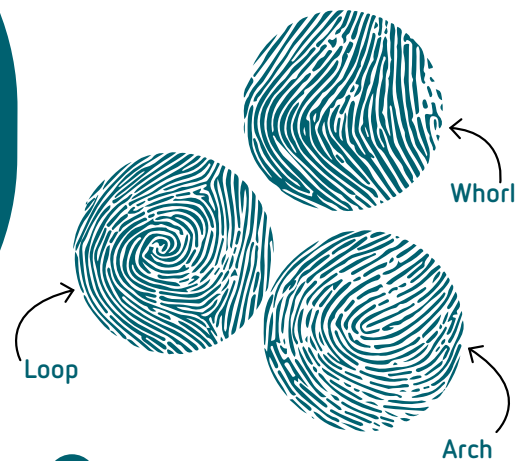
This activity is designed to get you thinking about fingerprints. Check out the video demonstration here:

[bsa.sc/YouTube-CREST-Fantastic-fingerprints-demonstration](https://bsa.sc/YouTube-CREST-Fantastic-fingerprints-demonstration) 

Find out if everyone's fingerprints really are different.

 45 – 60 minutes

**Skill set:** Curious, Observant, Patient



## Kit list

Dust (flour, chalk, talcum powder, cocoa powder)

Soft pencils

Blank paper (white paper for pencil and cocoa prints; black paper for white powder prints)

Sellotape

Scissors

Magnifying glasses



## Instructions

You will be comparing different fingerprints and seeing if you can identify any patterns. What do you know about fingerprints? Look at your own fingerprints using a magnifying glass.


- 1 Now you are going to take your fingerprints. Rub a pencil onto a piece of paper or sprinkle a small amount of dust on a table.
- 2 Now put your thumb on the pencil rubbing or in the dust. Then place your thumb firmly on the sticky side of a piece of sellotape.
- 3 Stick your sellotape onto a piece of paper. You should be able to see your fingerprint. Experiment to see what works best to get clear prints.
- 4 Look at your fingerprints, are the patterns like the ones at the top of the page?
- 5 Compare your prints with other people. Are they all different? Can you work out which are yours?
- 6 Can you find other ways to collect fingerprints?


## Watch out

Check if anyone has wheat or nut allergies before using flour and cocoa.

Remember to keep fingers out of your mouth and eyes during this activity and to wash your hands thoroughly at the end of the session. **Do not use permanent markers.**

## Next steps

This activity is one of the CREST SuperStar challenges. Why not try some of the other fun activities here: [primarylibrary.crestawards.org/#SuperStar](https://primarylibrary.crestawards.org/#SuperStar) 


If you are an adult wanting to run CREST Awards with your pupils, visit the website for advice on how to get started: [crestawards.org](https://crestawards.org) 

## At home

Look for fingerprints on surfaces such as glass (e.g. drinking glasses, mirrors or windows). Can you identify who made them?

Can you find out other ways of identifying individuals?

## Career options

 Forensic scientists will collect evidence from crime scenes and take it to a laboratory for testing. These tests, like the activity you have just done, help police identify who committed the crime. If you have a lot of patience and like solving problems, this could be a career for you!

