**Vocabulary: Fingerprinting**



**Arch**



**Central pocket loop whorl**



**Accidental whorl**

dictionary2

**Vocabulary**

* Accidental whorl – a type of fingerprint that includes two or more different patterns (other than a plain arch).
  + Accidental whorls include prints that do not fall into other print subgroups. They may include one or more characteristics from other patterns.
* Arch – a fingerprint pattern in which ridges enter one side of the print, curve upward and then downward, and then exit on the opposite side.
* Central pocket loop whorl – a type of pattern in which the ridges form a circular whorl inside a loop.
* Double loop whorl – a type of whorl pattern containing two separate loops.
  + Also referred to as twinned loops.
* Fingerprint – a distinct pattern of raised ridges found on the tip of a finger, or the impression made on a surface by these ridges.
  + No two people, not even identical twins, have the exact same fingerprints. Fingerprints remain the same throughout a person’s life.
  + Each person has ten unique fingerprints—one for each finger and thumb.



**Double loop whorl**

* + Other animals—such as chimpanzees, gorillas and koalas—have fingerprints.
* Fingerprint powder – a fine powder designed to stick to the skin oils that make up latent fingerprints.
* Latent print – an invisible print formed by the transfer of skin oils to another surface.



**Loop**

* + Latent prints tend to form on smooth, hard surfaces such as a glass or countertop.
* Loop – a fingerprint pattern containing ridges that enter from one side of the print and then curve around to exit on the same side of the print.
* Minutiae – small details in the ridge pattern that can help in matching two prints.
  + Some examples of minutiae include islands, bridges, lakes, and bifurcations.
* Patent print – a visible print made when a finger comes into contact with a visible substance such as blood, ink, or paint. The substance on the ridges of the finger is then transferred to another surface, leaving a stamp of the print.
* Plain arch – a type of arch containing ridges that curve gradually and do not form sharp peaks or angles.



**Plain arch**

* Plain whorl – a pattern in which the ridges form concentric circles.
* Plastic print – a visible, three-dimensional impression formed when a finger touches a soft material such as soap, clay, wet paint, or butter.



**Plain whorl**

* Radial loop – a type of loop fingerprint in which the ridges enter and exit from the direction of the thumb.
  + The ridges in a radial loop come from the direction of the radius, a bone on the thumb side of the forearm.
* Tented arch – a type of arch containing ridges that curve up sharply to form a distinct peak, like a tent.



**Tented arch**

* Ulnar loop – a type of loop fingerprint in which the ridges enter and exit from the direction of the little finger.
  + The ridges in an ulnar loop come from the direction of the ulna, a bone on the little finger side of the forearm.
* Whorl – a fingerprint pattern that contains either a series of concentric circles or a combination of other patterns.