



# History of Fingerprinting

## *Forensic Science*

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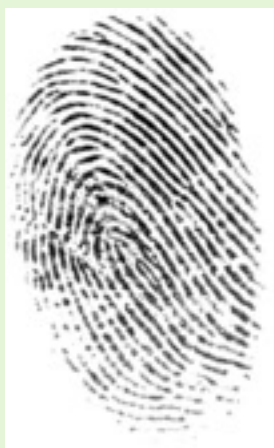
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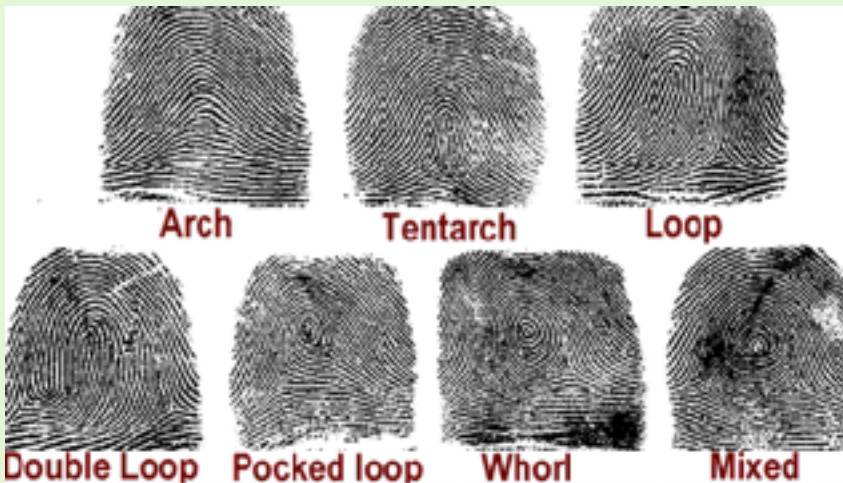
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# What is a Fingerprint?



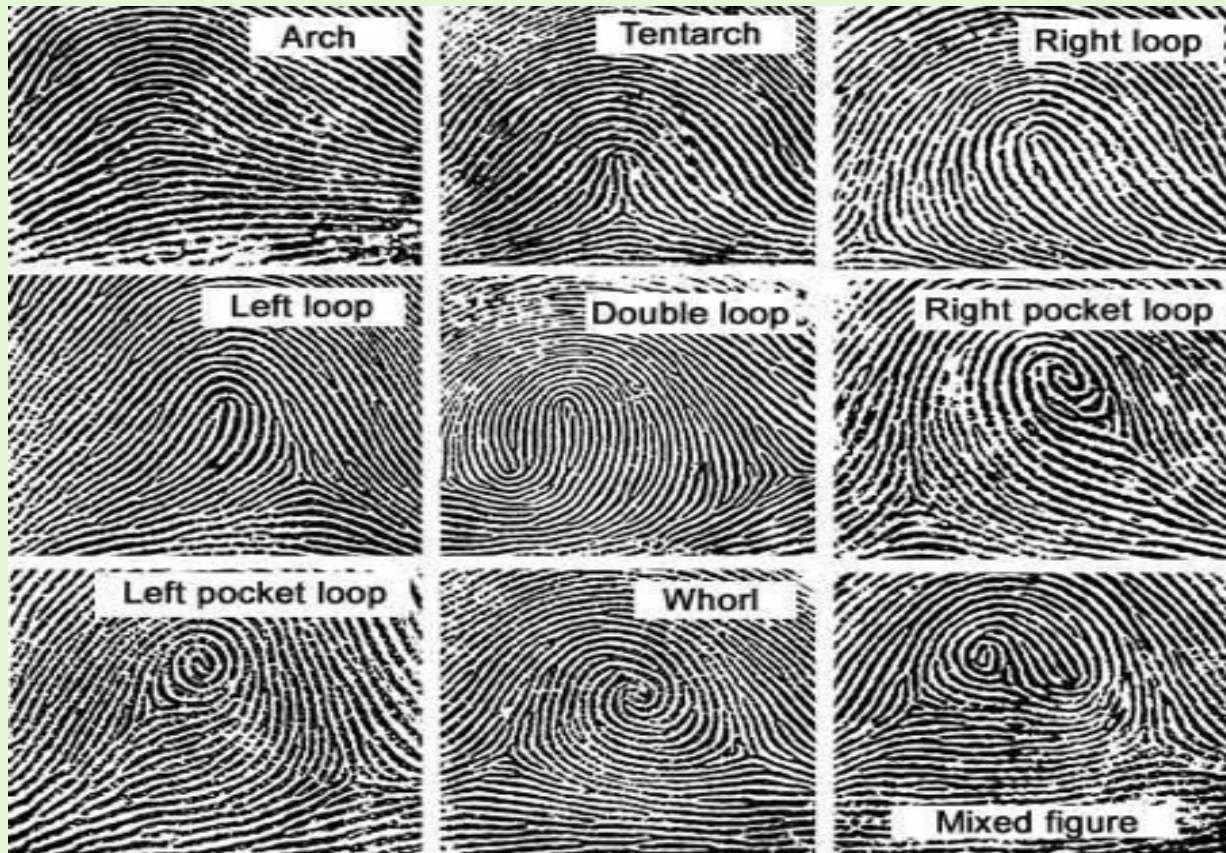
- **The impression left by a finger's friction ridges upon contact with a surface**
- **A unique trademark**
- **3 Key Patterns**

# Three Key Patterns



- Arch
- Loop
- Whorl

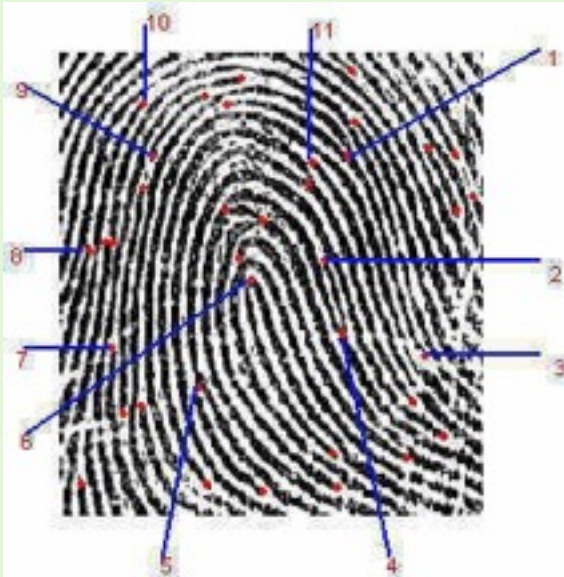
# Another Look at Patterns



Copyright: <http://www.FINGERPRINTS.TK>



# Classification System



- **Similar to “alphabets” that codify fingerprints**
- **Each finger has a value**
- **The pattern of each finger is identified**

# Matching Prints

- **Prints are essential to catch criminals but the police MUST have a suspect's to compare them to.**
- **If left at a scene, they can be keep in a databank until a match is found.**
- **In 2008, the Metropolitan Police (England) had 70,000 found prints waiting for a suspect.**

# What is the history?

- **Over 3,000 years ago fingerprints were used in ancient China.**
- **In ancient Babylon some people signed clay tablets with their prints.**



# Somewhat Recent History

- 1686** **Marcello Malpighi** noticed the ridges, spirals, and loops.
- 1823** **John Purkinje** published a discussion of 9 fingerprint patterns.
- 1858** **Sir William Herschel** required Indians to sign with prints.
- 1880** **Dr. Henry Faulds** recognized their importance in identification.
- 1888** **Sir Francis Galton** published *Finger Prints*.
- 1891** **Juan Vucetich** created a classification system in Argentina.
- 1897** **Sir Edward Richard Henry's** classification system included grouping by the 3 key patterns. The Henry System is still in use today.

# History in the U. S.

**1901** The New York City civil service commission adopts fingerprints for personal identification of all applicants; the first in the U.S.

**1903** Will West case

**1904** World's Fair in St. Louis; representatives from Scotland Yard train several U.S. Police officials

**1906** The U.S. Army began using fingerprints.

**1924** Identification Division of the FBI established.

# History in the U. S. (continued)

**1948** Introduction of Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)

**1977** International Association for Identification (IAI) voted to establish the world's first certification program for fingerprint experts.

**2009** AFIS computerized fingerprint database that can search through millions of records in a short period of time. It provides a list of potential identification “hits.”

# History in the U. S. (continued)

## 2010 IAFIS

- **Integrated Automatic Fingerprint Identification System**
- **Electronic database operated by the FBI**
- **Containing the fingerprints and corresponding criminal histories for more than 55 million subjects**
- **Inquiring agencies get responses to submissions within 2 to 24 hours**

# Resources

- <http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/iafis.htm>
- Do an Internet search for the following:
  - Savvy criminals obliterating fingerprints to avoid identification
  - Onin fp history
  - Sirchie