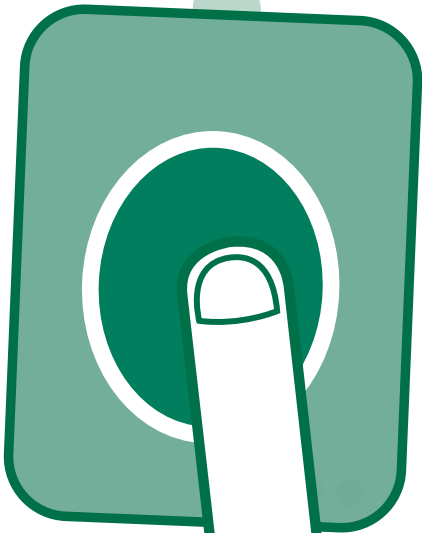




Fantastic fingerprints

Startown ★ News



Teachers at Startown Primary School are wondering if they can use fingerprints to take registers, log children on to computers and borrow library books.

The fingerprint pad designer told our reporter, “Electronic pads scan the fingerprints. They change the fingerprint pattern into a code. The code is saved on a computer. Children only need to touch a pad to register. The possibilities are endless.”

Mrs Teachem, the school’s Head told our reporter, “I’m not sure it will work. Are fingerprints really all different? I would like to know what your readers think.”



Talk about

★ What do you already know about fingerprints?


Look at your fingerprints with a hand lens or microscope.

- ★ What do your own fingerprints look like?
Are they the same as your buddy’s prints?
- ★ How do you think fingerprints are collected?

★ Your challenge

Find out if everyone’s fingerprints really are different.





★ Here are some ideas to get you started

- ★ You either need to rub pencil onto a piece of paper or you can sprinkle a small amount of dust (flour, chalk, talcum powder, cocoa powder) on a table.
- ★ Now put your thumb in the dust or on the pencil rubbing. Place your thumb firmly on the sticky side of a piece of sellotape. Now stick your sellotape onto a piece of paper. You may need to experiment to get clear prints.

★ Now you can start investigating

- ★ Look at the prints with your hand lens.
Do any of you have patterns like these?
- ★ Compare your prints with other people. Are they all different?
- ★ Can you find other ways to collect fingerprints?



Loop

Whorl

Arch

★ Sharing your ideas

Share all the fingerprints. Can you work out which are yours? You could let Mrs Teachem have copies or drawings of fingerprints.

Congratulations!

You are now a fantastic fingerprinter.

Collect your stickers and get ready for your next challenge.

★ Here are some extra challenges

- ★ Look for fingerprints on surfaces such as glass.
Can you identify who made them?
- ★ Some people think children's fingerprints should not be used as records in schools. What do you think?
- ★ Can you find out other ways of identifying individuals?

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SuperStar

