

FORENSIC MICROSCOPY LAB

Get ready to become a forensic scientist! In this lab you will examine your fingerprints and compare hair samples.



WHORL

ARCH

LOOP

FINGERPRINT ANALYSIS

Determine if your fingerprint is a whorl, arch or loop.

1. Rub the lead of a pencil on paper until there is a large dark spot.
2. Roll your finger in the lead until your finger is covered.
3. Place a piece of clear tape on your finger and carefully peel it off so that the lead on your finger transfers to the tape.
4. Stick the tape on a microscope slide and observe with a hand lens. Record your fingerprint pattern in the space.
5. Place the slide on the stage of a microscope and observe Under LOW, MEDIUM and HIGH power.
6. Remove the tape with your fingerprint and place it in the space.

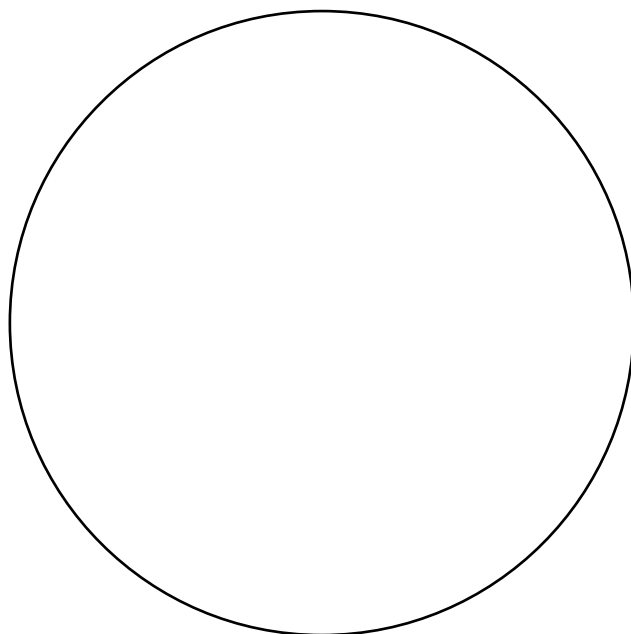
Fingerprint (place tape here)

Fingerprint Pattern: _____

HAIR ANALYSIS

Compare your hair with that of your partner.

1. Place a small drop of water in the middle of a Microscope slide.
2. Use the scissors to cut a piece of your hair and a piece of your partner's hair.
3. Place the hairs side-by-side or crossing each other in the drop of water and put a cover slip over them.
4. Examine the hairs under LOW, MEDIUM and HIGH power of the microscope.
5. Draw a section of each hair under HIGH power and make notes on any differences.



Notes: