



Fingerprint Basics

Name _____

Use the websites listed on the *Forensic Science* page of the *Kid Zone* at <http://sciencespot.net/> to complete this worksheet. The links are listed in the Fingerprint Basics section.

Site #1: NIST Matching Up Fingerprints

1. Click the link for “Solving Crimes, Improving Security” and work you way through the pages to complete this section. WAIT for the blue CONTINUE or NEXT SECTION buttons before you move ahead.

A. What does the acronym FBI mean? _____

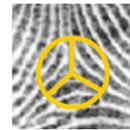
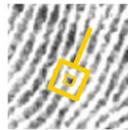
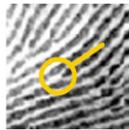
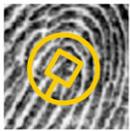
B. How many fingerprints are in the FBI master database of criminal files? _____

C. What is another term for a partial print found at a crime scene? _____

D. What do fingerprints consist of? _____ and _____

F. What are the three main types of fingerprints? _____

G. What type of minutiae points are shown below?



H. How many minutiae points must be in common between the latent and suspect print to be considered a match? _____

I. How many minutiae points will match on a complete fingerprint? _____

J. What type of fingerprint equipment is replacing “inked” fingerprints? _____

K. Follow the directions to find a print that matches the latent print from the stolen car. Which suspect matched the latent print? _____

L. Which type of fingerprint is most common? _____

M. Which type is least common? _____

2. Return to the first page of this site and scroll down to find the link for “Now try our fingerprint matching game!” Click the link and keep track of the number of guesses you needed to find the correct one.

- Which fingerprint was the correct one? _____

- How many guesses did it take to find the correct one? _____

Site #2: TruTV Fingerprint Game

Choose the "Fingerprints Game" link and follow the directions to match the prints. Try the game at least 5 times and record your efforts in the chart.

To identify the prints, use the corresponding letters below.

A	B	C	D	E
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Print	1	2	3	4	5
# of Guesses					
Correct Print					

Site #3: PBS Whodunit?

Click the link for "Whodunit?" Read the information presented and follow the directions to complete this activity.

What was the crime? _____

What time did it happen? _____ Where? _____

How many people were involved? _____

How many fingerprints did you collect from the bank? _____

How many other fingerprints did you find that could not be used? _____

Who are your main suspects? _____

Why would you fingerprint the bank employees? _____

Follow the directions to match prints from the evidence files to the ones in the fingerprint files.

Which person was responsible for the crime? _____

Done? Try the games listed below. The links are listed in the Mysteries & More section.

The Mystery of the Hidden Mine – Who did it? _____

Burgled Bonuses – Who did it? _____

Don't forget to turn in your worksheet!