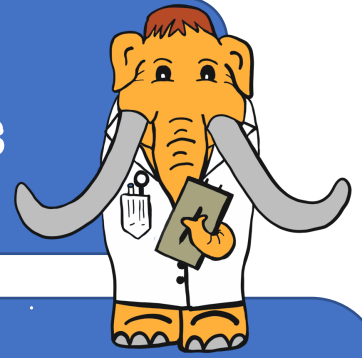


Science Saturday @ Home

Judy Moody: Girl Detective by Dr. Seuss Science of Fingerprints



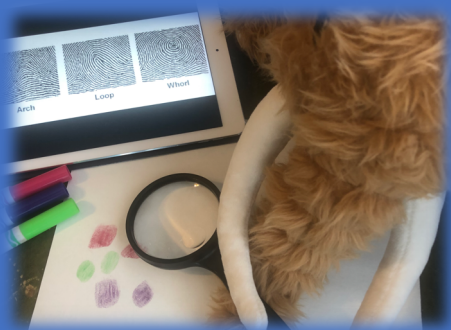
Gathering Supplies:

White paper
Washable Marker or Stamp Pad
Magnify Glass (optional)

In *Judy Moody Girl Detective* by Megan McDonald, Judy decides to be a detective and solve a neighborhood mystery. She even puts together her own detective kit with some of her mom's make up powder in case she needs to dust for prints! With this activity take a closer look at your own fingerprints and see what you can learn.

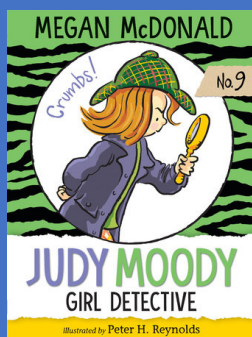
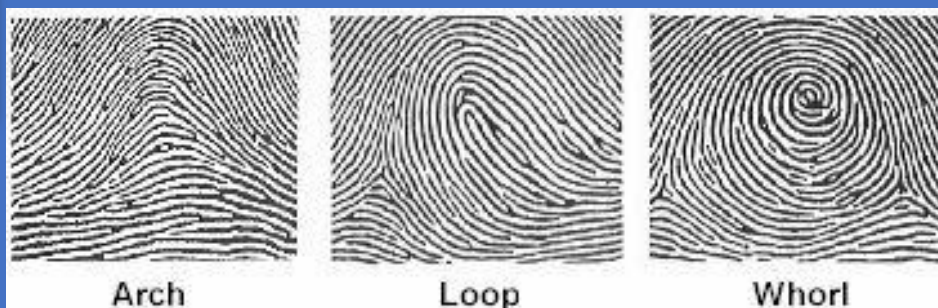
How To Steps:

1. Wash your hands to make sure that they are clean from dirt.
2. If you have an ink pad you can just press your finger tip, from the tip of your finger to the first knuckle on to the pad. If you don't have an ink pad you can take a washable marker and color the same area of your finger tip.
3. Then carefully but firmly press the finger onto a piece of white paper. It may take you a few tries to get a good print. Try different fingers, or maybe even different family members!
4. A magnifying glass will help you see the details of your fingerprints. Use the chart on the next page to compare your prints to the different types of fingerprints. Different fingers will have different prints. Does your thumb have a loop, an arch or a whorl pattern on it?



Detective Max Mastodon

Fingerprint Types



Judy Moody #9: Girl Detective
By Megan McDonald and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds.
Published by Candlewick, 2018

Did You Know?

No two fingerprints are the same. Since everybody has their own unique set of fingerprints they can be used to identify that individual. Fingerprints are patterns formed from dermal ridges on the tip of the finger to the first knuckle of each finger.

Fingerprints have been used for personal identification for over a hundred years. In the 1870's Dr. Henry Faulds, a British surgeon, developed a system of fingerprint classification and realized that each person had their own set of prints. Once investigators would have had to compare fingerprints using just a magnifying glass but now computers are not only able to scan fingerprints found at a crime scene, but then run comparisons with a database of over a million individual prints.

There are three basic categories that fingerprints fit into: the loop, the whorl and the arch. Then there are different subcategories and unique patterns that make each fingerprint one of a kind. 60% of the worldwide population has loop patterns, 35% has whorls and 5% has arches. What kind do you have?