

Curiosity Labs™ by Merck:  
**unique as YOUR fingerprint**

**in this experiment, you will learn...**

- What a **fingerprint** looks like
- How fingerprints are **unique** to each individual

**Share your results and tag us! #SPARKCuriosity**

# Curiosity Labs™ by Merck: unique as your fingerprint

## SUPPLIES

- Paper
- Lead pencil
- Clear tape

## Instructions

### STEP 1

Draw a 1 in. (2.5 cm) square on your paper and color it in with the pencil. Make sure to color the square in very dark using lots of lead.

### STEP 2

Place 1 finger on the square. Roll your finger from side to side and from the tip to your first knuckle to lightly coat your finger with lead.

### STEP 3

Take a clear piece of tape and carefully place it sticky side down on your finger. Gently press the tape down on your finger as to not smear your fingerprint.

### STEP 4

Peel the tape off your finger and place it sticky side down on the paper. Observe your unique fingerprint.

**Share your results and tag us! #SPARKCuriosity**

## FUN FACTS

Fingerprints help to make us unique but they also help us to grip things. The tiny ridges add extra friction to our hands so things do not slide out as easily.



## WHAT HAPPENED?

Each person has a unique fingerprint.

Fingerprints will never change. If you get a cut or a scrape on your finger, your fingerprint will grow back to normal once it heals.

Do this same experiment with different people and look for similarities and differences in each other's fingerprints.