Classifying Fingerprints:  

Name: ____________________________

Sir Edward Henry spent many years describing fingerprints from many people and discovered there are 4 main ways of classifying fingerprint patterns - arch, loop, whorl and composite.

Loop  Arch  Whorl  Composite

Take a record of your own fingerprints and describe the patterns. Provide an individual ridge count for each finger and then give a total ridge count. You may want to practise on a piece of paper before recording your fingerprints below.

RIGHT HAND

Pattern ______________________________

Ridge Count __________________________

LEFT HAND

Pattern ______________________________

Ridge Count __________________________

Total Ridge Count __________
Each of these types can be divided into further subgroups. Find an example of each of the following:

**ARCH**

Plain Arch  Tented Arch

**LOOP**

Radial Loop  Ulnar Loop

**WHORL**

Plain Whorl  Combination

Draw your own diagram below of a finger which has a radial loop with a ridge count of 5.

As well as describing the fingerprint type, it is possible to complete a total ridge count. Count the number of ridges between the core (centre) and triradius (delta or point at which ridges meet). As arches do not have a triradius, they cannot have a ridge count. The ridge count of ALL fingers are added to obtain the TOTAL RIDGE COUNT.