

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

COMPOSITE



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.