



a WOW Lab

BLUEPRINT

Classroom Science Investigation

Glossary

arch - describes the shape of a fingerprint which has lines that run from one side to the other to form an arch or hill-like shape.

crime scene - a location where an illegal (or rule-breaking) action took place.

crime scene investigation - the use of a broad spectrum of sciences and techniques in order to answer questions pertaining to a crime scene.

crime scene investigator - a scientist who specializes in crime scene investigation.

evidence - anything found at the crime scene which can be used to convict a criminal.

chromatography - the process of separation and analysis of the components of a mixture of liquids. For example, the ink from a pen can be separated into its component colours.

fibre - a thin, elongated material that can be spun into yarn. In this activity, a fibre from a piece of clothing is left at the crime scene by a suspect.

fingerprint - a print made by the ridges of skin on the fingertips. There are four general classifications of fingerprints, but no two fingerprints are exactly alike. Fingerprints can be used for identification purposes because each individual has unique prints.

loop - describes a fingerprint which has lines that look like an upside down "U" with ends that curve to the right.

mold - a hollow object or cavity used to shape a substance into a certain form.

reverse loop - describes a fingerprint which has lines that look like an upside down "U" with ends that curve to the left (instead of to the right, as with a loop).

sample - a small quantity of an original object.

suspect - one who is thought to be guilty of a crime.

victim - one who suffers as the result of an act.

whorl - describes a fingerprint which has lines that swirl around in a spiral-like pattern.