

Finger Print Lesson Plan

Objective:

Students will be introduced to forensic science and apply forensic science principles to a hypothetical crime. Students will learn how to collect finger prints.

Material Needed:

Pencil

"Chocolate Bar Thieves" Handout

FBI Finger Print Handout

Scotch tap

The day before the lesson, get a volunteer to be the "Chocolate Bar Thief". Get their finger print, and make copies for class use. (Make sure and pick a student who can keep their identity as Chocolate Thief a secret)

Procedure:

1. Read "Chocolate Bar Thieves" handout
2. Read FBI Fingerprint Handout
3. Have students complete Finger Print Lesson Work Sheet and Activity
4. Clean up
5. Closure Questions

Closure:

Lead discussion over question and answer section of Finger Print Lesson Work Sheet

Chocolate Bar Thief Handout



Yesterday, after work at FBI headquarter in Washington, DC, Mr. Martinez stopped at a convenience store to buy six chocolate bars, one for each of his four children, one for his wife, and one for himself. He decided he would give them their candy bars later that evening when they sat down together to watch their favorite television show. When all the kids were gathered together in the Television Room, Mr. Martinez went to his office to get the candy bars he had hidden in the drawer of his desk. When he opened his desk drawer, to his surprise, there were only four candy bars. The Martinez family happened to have some visitor that evening who are students from your class. As Mr. Martinez was about to leave his office to report the theft to his family, he discovered some chocolate smudges on the door knob, he was able to get a clean fingerprint that he intended to match with the candy bar thief. Your job is to look through the fingerprints of some of your classmates and determine which one stole the candy bars from the Martinez house.

Mr. Martinez took the fingerprints of each of his family members and they have all been excluded as the candy bar thief, so it is definitely someone in your classroom.



FINGER PRINT LESSON WORK SHEET

DIRECTIONS:

- a. Draw a dark pencil smudge on a piece of scratch paper.
- b. Beginning with the little finger on your right hand, rub your fingers on the pencil smudge until they are covered.
- c. Put a small piece of clear tape on the pad of your right thumb. Gently press the tape. Carefully remove the tape and place it on one of the boxes below.
- d. Repeat the process for the remaining fingers on your right hand, placing the pieces of tape across the sheet of paper. Label each piece of tape with the following abbreviations:
- e. T for the thumb I for the index finger M for the middle finger R for the ring finger L for the little finger

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Answer the following questions?

1. What kind of finger print pattern do you have?

2. What kind of finger print pattern does the thief have?

Leave this worksheet on your desk. Using the copy of the Chocolate bar thief's finger prints match it to one of your classmates prints.

3. Whose finger print most closely matches the "Chocolate Bar Thief"?

4. Was it difficult to determine the thief through fingerprinting?

SOURCES:

[http://www.fbi.gov/fun-games/kids/kids-about
sciencespot.net/Pages/classforsci.html](http://www.fbi.gov/fun-games/kids/kids-about-sciencespot.net/Pages/classforsci.html)

[www.discoveryeducation.com/...lesson-plans/the-
science-of-forensics](http://www.discoveryeducation.com/...lesson-plans/the-science-of-forensics)

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