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FINGERPRINTING



To the detectives, the answers lie at the end of our finger (1)s. Fingerprinting offers an accurate and infallible means of the personal identification (2). The ability to identify a person from a mere fingerprint which is a powerful tool in the fight against crime (3). It is the most commonly used forensic evidence, often outperforming the other methods of identification (4). These days, older methods of ink fingerprinting, which could take weeks, have given way to newer, faster techniques like fingerprint laser scanning, but the principles stay at the same (5). No matter which way you collect fingerprint evidence, every single person's print is the unique (6). A fingerprint is the arrangement of skin ridges and furrows on the tips of the fingers (7). This ridged skin develops fully during foetal development, which the skin cells grow in the mother's womb (8). These ridges are arranged into patterns and remain the same throughout the course of a person's life (9). Other visible human characteristics, like weight and height, change over time whereas fingerprints do not (10).