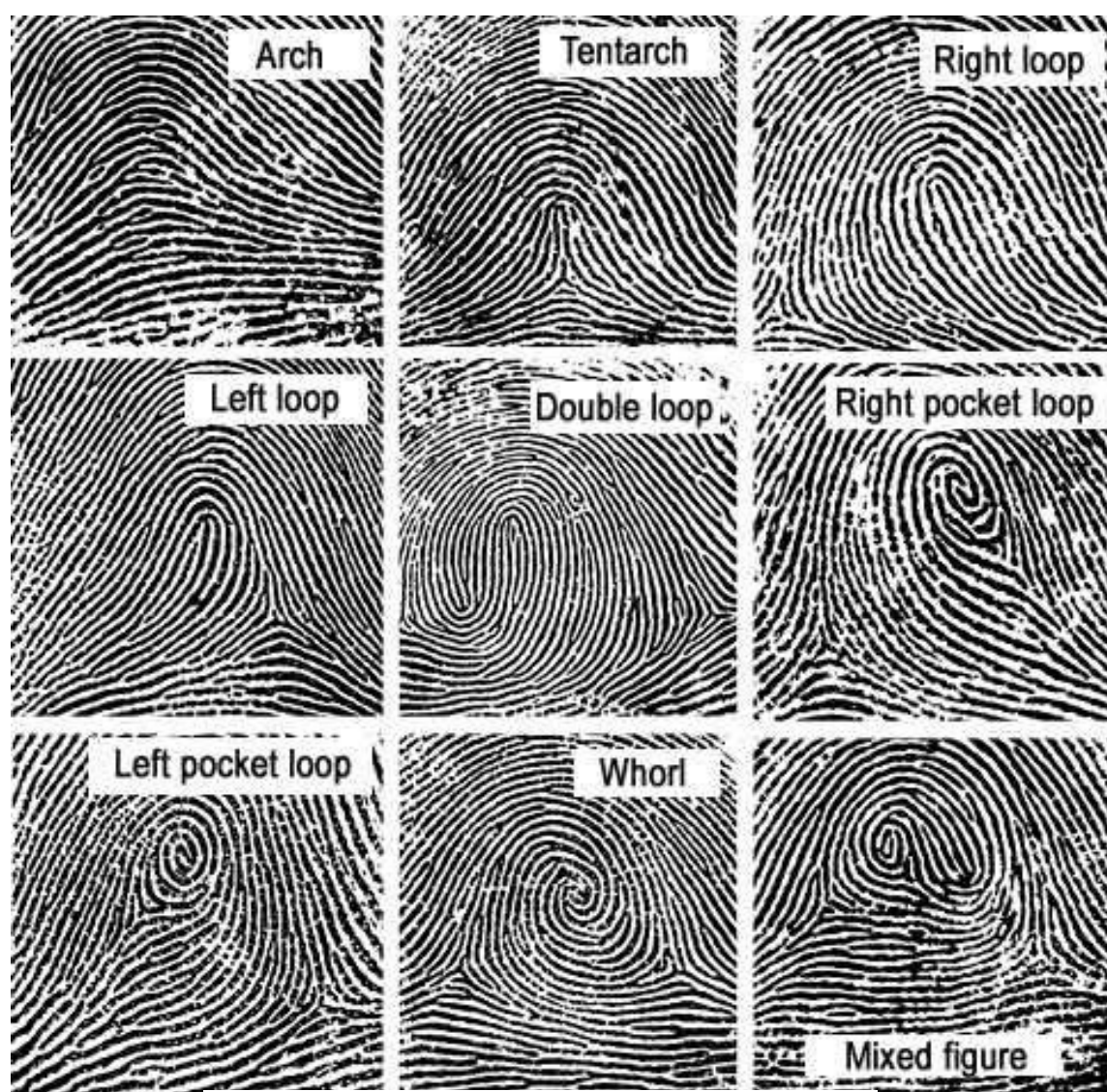


# Fingerprints

The skin on your hands and feet have tiny ridges which form unique patterns that don't change. On these ridges there are minute pores which produce sweat, which transfer to surfaces when you touch them.

The finger mark made is normally invisible but scenes of crime officers can cover the finger marks in special powder to lift the mark onto a different surface.



**A fingerprint is when a print is made using your fingers and ink.**

The study of fingerprints is known as **dactylography**.

In 1901 British police started to use this system to help catch criminals.

Fingerprints are put onto a computer database so that prints found at crime scenes can be matched up. However the computer is not 100% accurate and therefore fingerprints are always checked by eye.

Today fingers and palms are scanned and saved directly onto a national database.