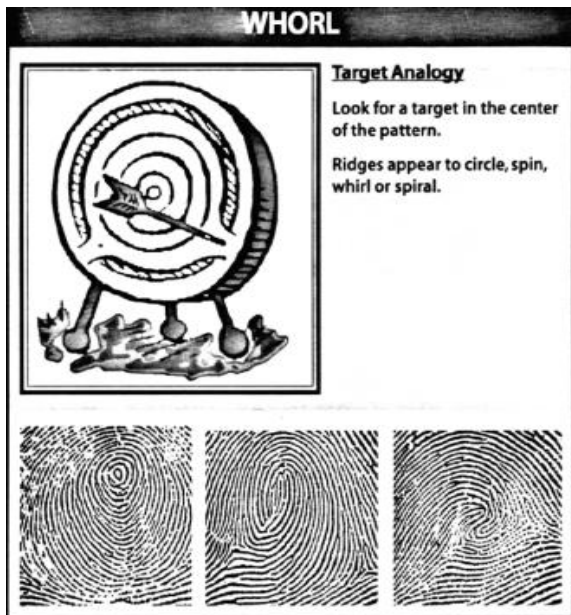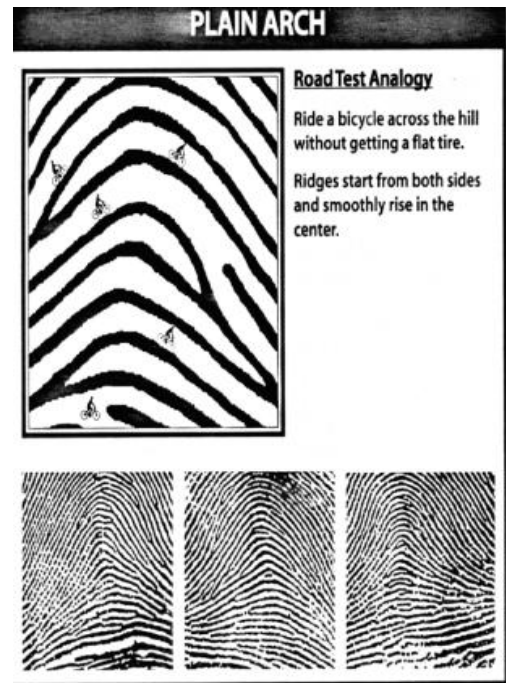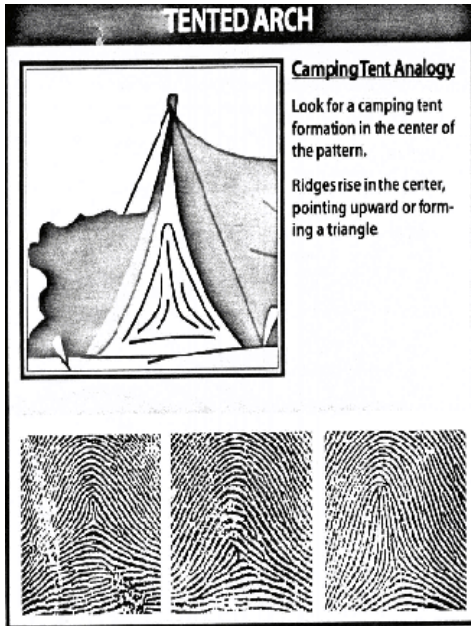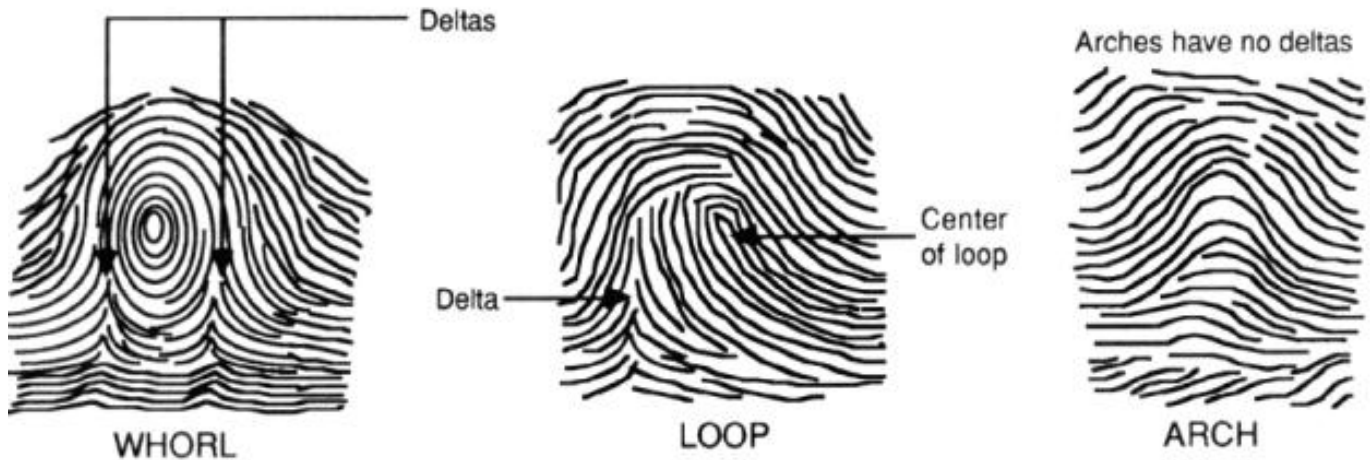Fingerprinting

You have probably heard that everyone has different fingerprints. But there are certain patterns that fingerprints display. The fingerprints are divided up into 3 basic types, and then one type has a couple of different categories. The first thing we will learn is to identify the different types of fingerprints. Then we will learn to create fingerprint impressions. We will then identify our fingerprint types. Then we will take different fingerprints taken from a "crime scene" and see if we can identify any of the suspects fingerprints as being at the crime scene.

The 3 basic types of fingerprints are whorl, loop, and arch. The arch is further broken up into plain arch and tented arch. The next few diagrams are examples of these types as well as instructions on how to recognize them. These are all blown up larger than "real life" so that you can see the differences.

TENTED ARCH

Camping Tent Analogy

Look for a camping tent formation in the center of the pattern.

Ridges rise in the center, pointing upward or forming a triangle

PLAIN ARCH

Road Test Analogy

Ride a bicycle across the hill without getting a flat tire.

Ridges start from both sides and smoothly rise in the center.

WHORL

Target Analogy

Look for a target in the center of the pattern.

Ridges appear to circle, spin, whirl or spiral.

Lake Analogy

Look for a river flowing into what looks like a lake formation.

Ridges start on one side, curve and return to the same side.

Or another way to look at it is to look at delta's

This last set is for you to practice what you have learned. You should identify 2 tented arch fingerprints, 2 plain arch, 3 whorl, and 3 loop. Can you figure out which is which? Label the pictures.