

Unit 3 Topic 1.3 Page 27

Activity: Media

Fingerprints

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- understand how fingerprints are used as evidence in criminal cases.

A. Using the link below, complete questions 1 to 9 that follow. When you are on the web page, click on the tab for fingerprints.

Note: you need to have Adobe Flash Player installed and allowed for this activity.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-16189713>

1. How are fingerprints taken by the police?
 2. What information does the Fingerprint Bureau (FPB) receive once the fingerprints have been processed and transferred to the management screen?
 3. How are fingerprints matched to suspects by the FPB?
 4. Which fingerprints are compared first?
 5. What is the 'coincidence sequence'?
 6. Who decides whether the fingerprint is a match?
 7. As well as matching fingerprints, what else does the FPB aim to do? How do they do this?
 8. What happens after the first comparison?
 9. Where is the information sent, and what happens then?
- B. How accurate do you think fingerprints are in identifying offenders?