

Study Skills Exercise G

DIRECTIONS

Read the story. Then read the outline on the next page. Complete the outline with details from the story.

Fingerprints

The skin on a person's fingertips has tiny ridges. The ridges form a pattern that never changes during a person's life. This pattern is called a fingerprint. There are three main kinds of patterns: the arch, which has a slight curve that looks like a hill; the loop, which has a deep curve that bends like a paper clip; and the whorl, which looks like a circle. No two persons have the same fingerprint pattern.

Since 1924, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI, has been collecting fingerprints of people in the United States. Where does the FBI get these fingerprints? Whenever the police arrest a person for a crime, they take that person's fingerprints and send them to the FBI. When a person enters the U.S. Army, prints are sent to the FBI. Any foreigner who wants to become a U.S. citizen must provide his or her fingerprints. And some businesses send their employees' fingerprints to the FBI. Today, the FBI has the fingerprints of millions of people in its files.

Fingerprints have several uses. One use is in criminal investigations. A person who commits a crime often leaves fingerprints on something at the scene of the crime. The police take those prints and compare them with prints in the FBI files. Sometimes they find the name of the criminal. Another use is finding out the names of people who have lost their memory. People who are injured in accidents may forget their names. The police can take the prints and compare them with the prints in the FBI files. Finally, if the police cannot identify a dead person, they take the prints to the FBI. Often, the dead person can be identified in this way.



Arch



Loop



Whorl