Classes of Fingerprints
Arches-No Deltas or Cores

An arch is formed by ridges entering from one side of the print, rising slightly and exiting on the opposite side.
Plain Arch

The simplest of all fingerprint patterns; a plain arch is formed by ridges entering from one side of the print, rising slightly and exiting on the opposite side.
Tented Arch

- A tented arch rises sharply upward causing the center of the print to look like a tent.
- By definition, the angle of the lines on a tented arch meets at less than a 90-degree angle.
Loops-One Delta & One Core

A *loop* must have one or more ridges that enter from one side of the print, re-curve, and exit the same side.
Ulnar Loops

An ulnar loop opens toward the little finger

Print from the right hand

bsapp.com
Radial Loops

A radial loop opens toward the thumb

Print from the right hand
Whorls

- One or more cores
- At least two deltas
Plain Whorl

- At least one ridge that makes a complete circuit
- The ridge may be in the form of a spiral, oval, or any variant of a circle
- If an imaginary line is drawn between the two deltas contained within the pattern and the line does not touch any of the spiral ridges, then the pattern is a plain whorl.
Plain Whorl

- Two Deltas
- One Core
- Displays a degree of symmetry
Central Pocket Loop

- At least one ridge makes a complete circuit.
- Ridges may be in the form of a spiral, oval, or any variant of a circle.
- If an imaginary line is drawn between the two deltas contained within these two patterns and the line touches any one of the spiral ridges, then the pattern is a central pocket loop.
Central Pocket Loop

- Two Deltas
- One Core
- Lacks Symmetry
- A delta is often observed near the core
Double Loop

A *double loop* is made up of two loops combined into one fingerprint.
Double Loop

- Two Deltas
- Two Cores
- Appears to have an “S” in the print
Accidental

- All other prints