



FSP17

# FINGERPRINTS

## Teacher activity information

### Dusting and lifting

The Student Handouts that relate to these activities are found in **FSP25 – Personal Dossier** under the section Fingerprinting.

### Equipment

- Powder for dusting. Use very fine powder and choose a colour that contrasts with the object you're dusting:
  - **Black** = Graphite powder (you can get this from hardware stores)
  - **White** = Titanium dioxide (paint suppliers may have this) or talcum powder (from your local grocery store in the toiletries section)
  - **Brown** = Cocoa (may need to sift it to remove lumps – you can get this from your local grocery store in the cooking section)
- Dusting brush (a body brush used for talcum powder works well)
- Smooth shiny surface (china or glass or a bathroom tile)
- Wide clear sticky tape

### Method

1. Press your thumb and fingers of one hand onto the clean plate or glass.
2. Fluff the dusting brush by rolling it between your palms
3. Lightly touch the brush to the powder – tap off excess powder.
4. Move the brush backwards and forwards gently over the print surface.
5. If you brush too hard the print will disappear.
6. Measure off about 5cm of sticky tape.
7. Stick the tape about 1 cm below the print and gently press the tape down onto the print (make sure you don't get any air bubbles).
8. NB – you may want to only get one print actually lifted – select the best print.
9. Gently pull back the tape and place the tape on to the Fingerprint Lift Table – **Personal Dossier FSP25**.
10. Label the print you have placed in your Personal Dossier.

*A latent print on skin can (sometimes) be lifted by pressing glossy photographic paper against the skin for 2-3 seconds. Powder the glossy paper to visualise the print. Protect the print with clear sticky tape.*