



### DID YOU KNOW?

Police investigators are experts in collecting "dactylograms," otherwise known as fingerprints.

tive number, and approximate location on the observed print are the special characteristics that make each fingerprint unique. Below are some of the specific ridge characteristics that are commonly used by investigators to identify individuals based upon their fingerprints.

### Arches



Plain Arch



Tented Arch

A **plain arch** is the simplest type of fingerprint, formed by ridges entering one side of the print and exiting the opposite side.

**Tented arches** are very similar to plain arches, but have a characteristic sharp spike in the center of the print.

Arches do not have deltas.

### Loops



Radial Loop, Right Hand



Ulnar Loop, Right Hand

Loops must have one delta and one or more ridges entering from one side of the print, recurving, and exiting the same side.

If the loop opens toward the thumb, it is called a **radial loop**, in reference to the position of the radius.

If a loop opens toward the little finger, it is called an **ulnar loop**, in reference to the position of the ulna.