

No matter how similar two people may look, there are ways to tell them apart. Find out how everything from fingerprints to a

strand of hair can be used to identify a person.

**A fingerprint on paper
can survive for more
than 40 years!**

What Are Fingerprints

Between your fingertips and various objects, giving you a better grip on things.

OTHER WAYS TO ID A PERSON

You're different from other people in many ways. For instance, the colored part of your eye, called the iris, has a pattern unique to you. In fact, your left iris is distinct from your right iris.

Types of Fingerprints

When you touch something, small amounts of oil from your skin rub off on the object and leave a fingerprint.

There are three types of fingerprints: arch, loop, and whorl.

Look closely at the patterns of ridges.

and lines of your palm are unique to you.

ARCH

Lines start on one side of the print, rise in the middle, and then exit on the other side.

color of pigment in the iris as well as the iris's pattern of pitted depressions and raised ridges. There are 22 variable characteristics of

LOOP

Center lines enter and exit on the same side of the print.

WHORL

Circles in the middle don't exit on either side of the print.

50 characteristics of your fingerprints. How else are you different from everyone else on Earth? The ridges in your hand are called biometrics.