

Workstation 3: Fingerprints

I can identify a mixture by observing its components.
I can explain how evidence is used to support or refute ideas.



Sometimes, CSI technicians find fingerprints at a crime scene. They compare the fingerprints they find with the fingerprints of any suspects that the police investigate.

The police detectives are investigating four different suspects. They believe that one of the four suspects broke into a house, and they want the CSI technician to compare the suspects' fingerprints to some found on a window at a crime scene.



I use a brush to put black powder on the glass of the window. Once I can see the fingerprint clearly, I take a photo of it, and then place some clear tape over the print. I stick the tape onto a piece of card so that I have a copy of the fingerprint.

I then use a special computer programme to compare the crime scene fingerprint with the suspects' fingerprints.

In this case, I found that the fingerprint left on the window matches a fingerprint from one of the suspects.



What should I tell the police?