



**Activity:** [The Fingerprint Survey](#)

- Materials:** Two or more children or adults  
One inkpad  
Multi-color set of fine line markers  
Blank white printer/drawing paper



*The Fingerprint Survey* is designed to help children ages 7 - 12 discover that their drawings have roots in their own life story, and that the drawings of friends and family hold similar clues to their stories as well. To encourage individual responses, the survey itself does not contain any sample drawings.

Each person is given a copy of the survey and access to the markers and inkpad. Participants may also be given extra sheets of paper. Directions can be given verbally or read silently. When everyone is finished, they compare their answers and drawings.



There will be differences among the drawings. Each of us works from a one-of-a-kind brain. The decisions that we make are influenced by our previous experiences. The discovery is that even the simplest stick figure may hold clues to the personality, likes and dislikes, talents, and experiences of its artist.



If a potential participant is hesitant to draw, that's okay. That person may watch and join in the conversation as drawings and answers to questions are compared.

## The Fingerprint Survey



To complete *The Fingerprint Survey*, complete the following drawing activities and questions. If other people are taking the survey at the same time, keep your eyes on your own work. Or, work where you cannot see what others are drawing. This is an activity, like an art project. It is not a test.

1. Draw a stick figure doing something.

*Question: Why did you choose to draw the stick figure doing that activity?*

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2. Draw the very best tree that you can.

*Question: There are many kinds of trees. Why did you draw that one?*

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3. Draw something, anything that you choose.

*Why did you draw that?*

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4. Using the inkpad, make a fingerprint on the paper. Next, make a drawing using your fingerprint as part of the drawing.

*Why did you draw that?*

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5. If you are completing the *The Fingerprint Survey* with others, wait until everyone has completed their drawings. If you like, you may continue drawing on this page while you wait. Then, compare your drawings and the comments that you wrote.

If you are completing the survey on your own, you may read *Emma and Tyler Take The Fingerprint Story* and compare your work with them!

