Junior Detective Badge

**STEPS**

1. Practice the power of observation
2. Communicate in code
3. Fingerprint for fun
4. Try out detective science
5. Follow the clues to solve a real mystery

When you've earned this badge, you'll know how to follow clues and discover facts like a real detective.
STEP 1: PRACTICE THE POWER OF OBSERVATION

One of a detective’s most important skills is to watch people and situations very closely. Work on your observation skills with this activity.

Print out enough copies of the spot the difference printable for each girl. Let them work individually, cooperatively, in teams or race to see who can find the most differences. You know your girls best, do what works for your group!

STEP 2: COMMUNICATE IN CODE

Sometimes detectives, spies, or special agents can’t talk to one another because of distance or the chance of being found out. They have to use other ways to get messages to each other.

Make invisible ink! Write a message using a Q-tip dipped in lemon juice. Dry the paper in the sun or use a hair dryer. The ink must be completely dry before you can read your message.

Try another code! Use the Morse code key handout to write messages to each other. Test your skills and decode one another’s messages!

Morse code was invented to send messages over wires before it was possible to transmit your voice!

STEP 3: FINGERPRINT FOR FUN

Fingerprinting is used to find criminals and identify missing or injured persons.

Press your thumb straight down onto an ink pad, or gently color it with a marker. Press your inked finger straight down onto the fingerprint blanks on the fingerprinting sheet. What type of pattern prints do you have? Compare to the print chart.

Having a hard time telling the differences? Repeat the process using a balloon instead of the paper (light colored balloons work best).

Blow up the balloon slightly so the prints get larger. If the prints look blurry, let out some air until they are clearer. What type of pattern prints do you have? Compare to the print chart. Compare your prints with your friends!

STEP 4: TRY OUT DETECTIVE SCIENCE

Detectives use cutting-edge science to figure out what happened, whodunnit, and sometimes even to find the motive (the reason for the action).

Find an article or story on detecting or detectives. Read it, then copy 1 paragraph in your handwriting. Ask a friend to do the same. Compare your writing to see how it is alike and different. Finding details in handwriting can help detectives solve forgeries! This science is called “graphology.”

STEP 5: FOLLOW THE CODES TO SOLVE A REAL MYSTERY

Put your sleuth skills to the test with this activity!

Go undercover in your community. Find the meaning of three names of streets, counties, states, or nations; or names of geographical features such as mountains, glaciers, lakes, or rivers, just like Girl Scouts did in 1980 to earn their “My Heritage” badge.
Arches
Ridges enter on one side & exit on the other side.

Plain Arch  Tented Arch

Loops
Ridges enter on one side & exit on the same side

L - Radial Loop  R - Ulnar Loop

L - Ulnar Loop  R - Radial Loop

Whorls
Consists of circles, more than one loop, or a mixture of pattern types

Plain Whorl  Central Pocket Whorl  Double Loop Whorl  Accidental Whorl

MY FINGERPRINTS

Left Thumb

Right Thumb
## Morse Code Alphabet

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*Note: Each code is represented by a dot (•) or a dash (—). The length of the codes corresponds to the number of dots or dashes.*