

# LESSON 1:

## SECRET AGENT ID

### SUPPLIES

#### FOLDER

- Fingerprint Patterns Worksheet (15)
- Badge Templates (5)

#### PENCIL BOX

- Markers
- Pencils

#### MAIN BIN

- Paper towels (1)
- Clorox Wipes (1)
- Plates (5)
- Ink pad (1)

### OBJECTIVES

- Learn why fingerprints can help identify people
- Create a Secret Agent badge

### HOOK 3-5 min

- Inform students that this is their first day of Secret Agent training!
- Ask for the student's names, and, once they have gone around the room, pretend to act surprised. As a Secret Agent, you never reveal your true identity! Tell students that they are going to have to come up with a secret identity, pronto. After that, you'll begin training right away.
- Ask students to think about the skills that spies need to be successful, and ask students to share their ideas.

### INTRODUCTION 3-5 min

Welcome to the Secret Agent Academy! Today, you're stepping into the world of espionage, the secretive art of gathering information that people want to keep hidden. Spies, also known as secret agents, are highly trained individuals who collect information for governments or organizations. They operate covertly, or secretly, using skills like surveillance, infiltration, codebreaking, and even clever disguises to stay undetected. As new recruits, you'll begin to explore the essential skills that Secret Agents need as you prepare to go undercover.

But first, we need to create a Secret Agent ID card. Because we will all be inventing Agent names, we need some way to verify everyone's identity. That's where fingerprints come in!

### MEET TODAY'S SPECIAL AGENT:

#### NIGHTSHADE

Specialty: Biometrics Expert



Agent Nightshade is a master of disguise, blending seamlessly into any environment. With her extraordinary ability to change appearances and adopt different personas, Nightshade can infiltrate secret meetings and gather critical intelligence. Throughout her years of service, no counter-intelligence agency has been able to obtain her fingerprints, and, as a result reveal her identity.



## DISCUSSION

🕒 3-5 min

Take a look at your fingers! All humans have their own unique fingerprints, which means not a single other human has the same fingerprints as you. Not even an identical twin!

Fingerprints have three distinctive patterns: loops, whorls and arches. Arches are only found on 5% of people's hands, while loops are the most common pattern. Many people have a combination of patterns in their fingerprints. Because everyone has their own fingerprint, spies and detectives can tell exactly who touched a surface, based on their fingerprint.

Because of natural oils, grease, sweat or dirt, we can leave our fingerprints on things we touch. What surfaces do you think would be touched the most and would have fingerprints on them? Let students suggest ideas. Review that door handles, light switches, cups and silverware would be touched often in a house.

Due to the nature of the job, Secret Agents often use an alias, or, a different name, and do not want their fingerprints to be collected on surfaces. They may wear gloves, limit what they touch, and wipe down any surfaces they come in contact with. But at headquarters where all the secret information is stored, Agents need a badge to get through locked doors and access all the top secret information. Now, let's make our own!

## ACTIVITY PART 1: BADGES

🕒 10 mins

1. The first step to becoming a secret agent is creating your Secret Agent Identity Badge! Pass each student a blank badge.
2. Have students choose one of the names from the Agent Name Bank (First and Last) that they like best or come up with their own. If they are able, have them write it on their badge.
3. In the self portrait box, have them draw themselves! If students would like to draw themselves with a disguise (mustache, glasses, colorful hair, etc., encourage them to do so!)

## AGENT NAME SUGGESTIONS

### First Names

1. Shadow
2. Phantom
3. Secret
4. Stealth
5. Silent
6. Invisible
7. Velvet
8. Blaze
9. Steel
10. Cobra
11. Ghost
12. Luna

### Last Names










1. Spyglass
2. Mirage
3. Mastermind
4. Hawk
5. Serpent
6. Midnight
7. Cipher
8. Operative
9. Sleuth
10. Specter
11. Viper
12. Whisper

## ACTIVITY PART 2: SPY SKILLS

🕒 5 mins

- Students may notice that their Secret Agent Badge has a section to include a Spy Skill. Here, they can choose any of the skills listed below, all of which will be discussed at some point during this curriculum. If you have the time to discuss each skill, read them out loud to students and ask if they know what each skill means!
- Have students choose a skill and fill in the Spy Skills section on their badge.

### SPY SKILLS

 <p><b>Observation:</b> Paying close attention to everything, even the tiniest details.</p>	 <p><b>Codebreaking:</b> Figuring out secret messages or puzzles to find hidden clues.</p>	 <p><b>Chemistry:</b> Understanding how chemicals respond and react to each other</p>
 <p><b>Gadgets:</b> Using cool spy tools and technology to help on missions.</p>	 <p><b>Intelligence:</b> Analyzing top secret or classified information</p>	 <p><b>Mission Control:</b> Collaborating with others to achieve a common mission</p>
 <p><b>Navigation:</b> Finding your way around new places using maps or other tools.</p>	 <p><b>Surveillance:</b> Watching carefully without being detected.</p>	 <p><b>Decryption:</b> Unscrambling data that has been encrypted, or jumbled.</p>

## ACTIVITY PART 3: FINGERPRINTS

🕒 10 mins

- Give each student a copy of the Fingerprint Pattern Worksheets.
- To each table, pass out inkpad.
- Have students take turns dipping each finger tip lightly into the inkpad, and pressing it on the paper. **NOTE: remind students not to get too much ink on their fingers for this. Too much ink on their finger results in the fingerprint being unreadable!**
- Then, have each student identify their fingerprint type, and compare to their group members. Ask if they can describe the differences, and if they can tell that everyone's print is unique!
- After they have discussed and identified their fingerprint type, have students carefully fingerprint the back of their Secret Agent Badge with their thumb. Allow the badge time to dry. Have students clean hands as needed.

## FRONT





**SECRET AGENT ACADEMY**

AGENT NAME: Ghost Viper

SPY SKILL: Decryption

DATE OF ISSUE: 1 / 21 / 26

## BACK



### OBSERVE & EXPLAIN

 10 mins

Ask students to observe their fingerprints:

- What do they notice? How many lines do they have in their fingerprint? Are they close together or far away?

Even though every single human has unique fingerprints, the prints follow three basic patterns. They are called whorls, loops, and arches. Let's look at how each of these patterns are different. Arches begin on one side of the finger and arch, then continue to the other side. Loops begin on one side of the finger then make a loop and back to the same side. Whorls are sets of circles inside each other.

Very few prints are arches. Some prints are whorls. Most of prints are loops. What fingerprint pattern is most common in the group of Secret Agent recruits? Have students compare Secret Agent cards! We know that all fingerprints are unique, but are any of them similar?

Now that everyone has their Secret Agent name, badge, and understands the skill we will learn in Secret Agent Academy, our training can truly begin!



### Exit Ticket



Ask each student one of the following questions as they walk out the door.

- Q: Why are fingerprints used to identify people?
  - A: Everyone in the world has their own unique fingerprint
- Q: What are the three kinds of fingerprint patterns?
  - A: Loops, Whorls, and Arches

# SECRET AGENT ID

## BADGE TEMPLATE

  
**iSTEAM**  
After School  
**SECRET AGENT ACADEMY**

**AGENT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPY SKILL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF ISSUE:** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

  
**iSTEAM**  
After School  
**SECRET AGENT ACADEMY**

**AGENT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPY SKILL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF ISSUE:** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

  
**iSTEAM**  
After School  
**SECRET AGENT ACADEMY**

**AGENT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPY SKILL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF ISSUE:** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

## FINGERPRINT PATTERN WORKSHEET

	Index Print	Middle Print	Ring Print	Pinkie Print	Thumb Print
<b>My Prints</b>					
<b>Name of Pattern: Loop, Arch, or Whorl?</b>					

## FINGERPRINT PATTERNS



loop



whorl



arch