



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2008 PROJECT SUMMARY**

Name(s) Ryan M. Street	Project Number J1129
Project Title Who Done It? Identifying a Cat from Its Paw Prints	
<p style="text-align: center;">Abstract</p> <p>Objectives/Goals The objective is that if cat paw prints are unique, then I will be able to identify a cat from its paw prints.</p> <p>Methods/Materials In my procedure, I used six cats in this experiment. My parents let one of them walk across a piece of glass and eat some salmon. I did not know which cat it was. I lifted this cat's paw prints using magnetic fingerprint powder, tape and a 5x7 card. I picked out the best paw print and drew a chart of the lines, marks & ridges on it paw. Using ink and 5x7 cards, my mother and I then got paw prints from each suspect cat. I blew up each paw print on our copier and drew charts of the lines, marks & ridges for each cat. I now had something to compare.</p> <p>Results I used a magnifying glass to visually compare the lines, marks & ridges of the Crime Scene Paw Print to each of the Suspect Cat Paw Prints. It matched Suspect Cat-A's paw print exactly. To double check this result, I drew the lines, marks & ridges of the Crime Scene Paw Print onto a transparency. I laid the transparency on top of each Suspect Cat Paw Print and again Suspect Cat-A's paw print was an exact match.</p> <p>Conclusions/Discussion In conclusion, I proved that of the six cats in this experiment, it was Suspect Cat-A who ate the salmon. This shows that cats do have unique paw prints. In future research, I wonder what would happen if I used a larger cat population? Also, are the lines, marks & groves in cat paw prints are like the minutiae of human fingerprints? Can human minutiae be used for identifying cat paw prints?</p>	
Summary Statement Can a cat be positively identified from its paw prints.	
Help Received My mother helped me get inked paw prints from each cat. My father helped me research this topic. They both helped set up the scenario so I wouldn't know which cat left its paw prints at the crime scene.	