CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2016 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

J2015

Project Title

Testing Household Materials for Lifting Fingerprints

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

The experiment tests which household materials will work best as a dusting agent to lift fingerprints off of a glass surface.

Methods/Materials

Pencil lead, sidewalk chalk, charcoal briquette, cocoa powder, eye-shadow, index cards, clear tape, dusting brushes, glass surface. Dusted and lifted multiple fingerprints using each of the materials and compared to a control.

Results

Fingerprints that were dusted using five household materials were compared to a control fingerprint. Although all household materials were able to lift part of the prints, pencil lead resulted in lifted prints that most closely matched the control fingerprint.

Conclusions/Discussion

Based on counting identifiable points, pencil lead resulted in the clearest lifted fingerprints, possibly because of the similar ingredients to actual fingerprint powder.

Summary Statement

I showed that household materials can be used as a dusting agent to lift fingerprints, and determined that pencil lead was the most effective.

Help Received

None. I designed and performed the experiment myself.