**Classification**

Classification systems are used to organize information. In biology, for example, they are used to distinguish specific types of [organisms](http://www.biologycorner.com/worksheets/fingerprint_class.html). Most systems of classification use standard principles of organization, where data is divided into the broadest categories and then organized into subgroups.

Look at each fingerprint below. Criminologists use a system for classifying fingerprints to make it easier to compare. What categories would you divide them in to? What subcategories?

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| http://www.biologycorner.com/resources/fingerprints/fingerprint6.gif | http://www.biologycorner.com/resources/fingerprints/fingerprint10.gif | http://www.biologycorner.com/resources/fingerprints/fingerprint5.gif | http://www.biologycorner.com/resources/fingerprints/fingerprint3.gif |
| http://www.biologycorner.com/resources/fingerprints/fingerprint4.gif | http://www.biologycorner.com/resources/fingerprints/fingerprint7.gif | http://www.biologycorner.com/resources/fingerprints/fingerprint1.gif | http://www.biologycorner.com/resources/fingerprints/fingerprint8.gif |