Week 5

Week Beginning 1st February 2021

L.O.: to compare the teeth of carnivores and herbivores and suggest reasons for the differences

The Different Types of Teeth

Do you know the names of the four types of teeth?

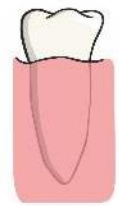
- **incisors** – Considered 'nature's scissors' for animals, incisors are used for cutting and biting off pieces of food.

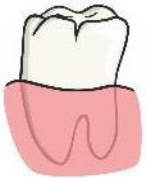




- **canines** – These are long, pointed and sharp. Canines are used by predators to hold and tear flesh, as well as to kill their prey.

- **premolars** – The function of premolars are to crush and grind soft food. As their name indicates, they are located 'before' molars.

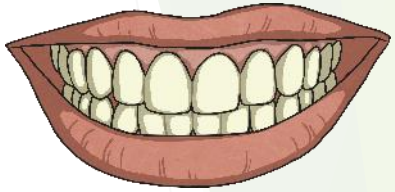




- **molars** – These are used for chewing and grinding hard food.

Different Diets, Different Teeth

The kind of food an animal eats relates to the shape and type of teeth the animal has.



herbivores – These are animals that eat plants. Elephants, cows, horses, camels, sheep and goats are all herbivores or plant-eaters.

omnivores – These are animals that eat both meat and plants. Humans, bears and pigs are examples of omnivores

carnivores – These are animals that eat meat. Lions, tigers and wolves are all examples of carnivores or meat-eaters.



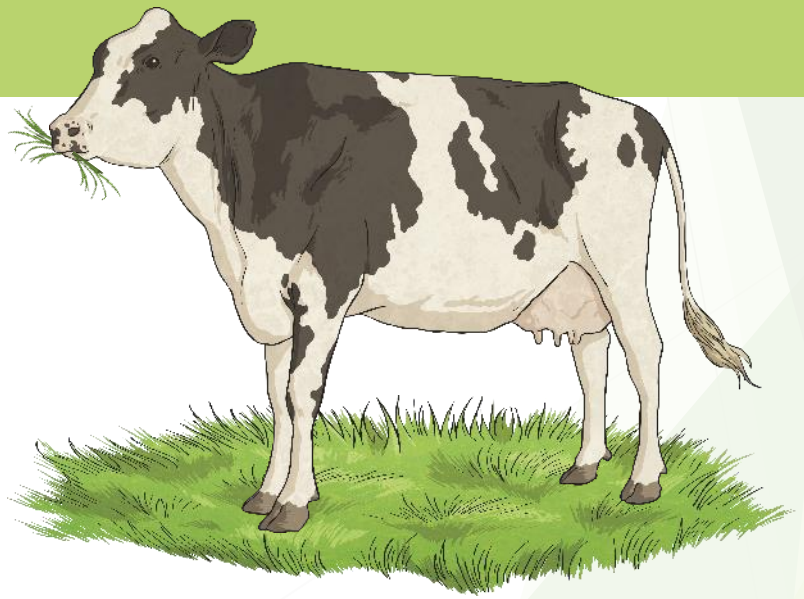
Herbivores



Look at the cow and the rabbit eating a carrot on this slide. How can their teeth help them in feeding?

Herbivores have very **sharp** incisors to help them cut off pieces of the plant they are eating.

They also have rows of **wide, flat** premolars and molars for chewing grass, leaves and other tough plant matter.



Carnivores

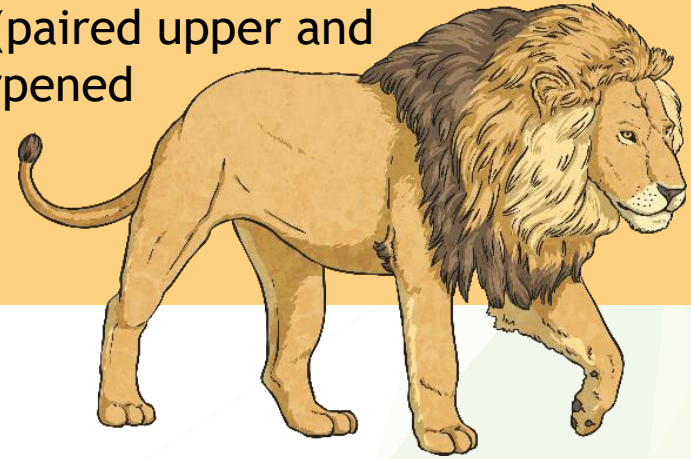
Most carnivores are predators that hunt down their prey.



They therefore have ***long, pointed*** *canines – much longer than the those of humans – for gripping their prey, tearing their flesh and killing it.*

They also have premolars and molars. However, instead of being flat like herbivores' teeth, theirs are ***serrated*** *like knives. They are made for shredding, rather than grinding.*

Carnivores often also have carnassial teeth (paired upper and lower molars or premolars, which allow sharpened teeth to pass by each other in a shearing manner), which are used for cutting food into smaller pieces.



serrated – A row of sharp points.

Omnivores



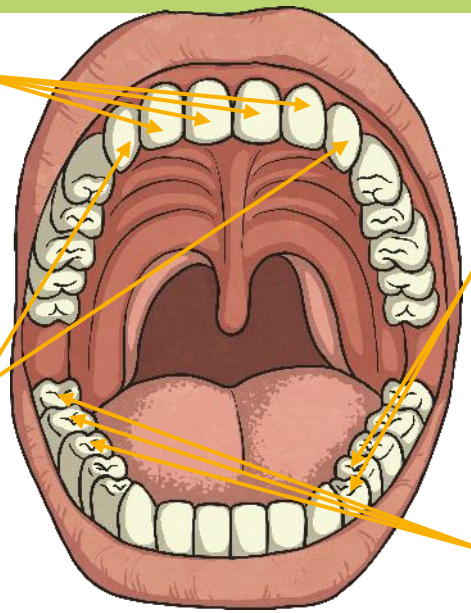
Omnivores, such as humans, bears, pigs or hedgehogs, have a mixture of **sharp** teeth for eating meat and flat teeth for chewing.

Open your mouth and look in the mirror. Make sure you've cleaned your teeth first! (NOTE: You might not have your full set of molars yet so you can have a look in this mouth instead!)

What can you see?

At the front of a human mouth, you will see eight incisors – four at the top and four at the bottom.

There are four canines – one on each side of the top and bottom incisors.



Premolars come next – two on either side of the top and bottom jaw.

Finally, there are molars – three on either side of the top and bottom jaw.

Human mouth with its **full set** of secondary teeth.

Task

When you have read all the information.
Try identifying these skeletons.

1. Which animal is this?
2. Is the animal a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore?
3. What makes you think this?

The answers will be given at the end

A.



Is this a rabbit, a shark or an alligator?

Is it a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore?

B.



Is this a rabbit, a shark or a goat?

Is it a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore?

c.



Is this a human, a dog or a giraffe?

Is it a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore?

D.



Is this a human, a goat or a bear?

Is it a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore?

E.



Is this a rabbit, a shark or an alligator?

Is it a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore?

F.



Is this a human, a horse or a bear?

Is it a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore?

Answers

A Shark Carnivore
B Goat Herbivore
C Human Omnivore
D Brown Bear Carnivore
E Alligator Carnivore
F Horse Herbivore

Why do animals have different teeth? - BBC Bitesize
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zn22pv4/articles/z846gdm

Follow the link to BBC Bitesize; watch the video and have complete the quiz.