

Smile! Show Off Those Pearly Whites



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Gnawing on wood helps keep a beaver's teeth trimmed.

Like people, animals have different teeth with special jobs. Some animals have sharp teeth, some have curved teeth, and some have round teeth. Open wide, and look inside to learn about different ways teeth are helpful.

My, What Important Teeth You Have!

Teeth are important for many reasons. They help animals chew food. Many animals need their teeth for survival.

A **hippopotamus** has 42 to 44 teeth. It likes to eat plants. A hippo has round, flat back teeth to grind its food. When a hippo is angry, it opens its mouth and shows its big teeth.

A **beaver** has about 20 teeth. It uses its four strong, curved front teeth for gnawing trees and wood. It uses its back teeth for chewing food. A beaver's front teeth never stop growing. Gnawing on wood helps keep its teeth trimmed.

Some **sharks** have nearly 5,000 razor-sharp teeth. They lose thousands of teeth during their lifetime and grow new sets of teeth every two weeks.

A **lion** has 30 teeth, which are not made for chewing. It has four large, pointed teeth that are used to capture and hold its food. Once the lion catches its food, it tears the meat and swallows it whole.

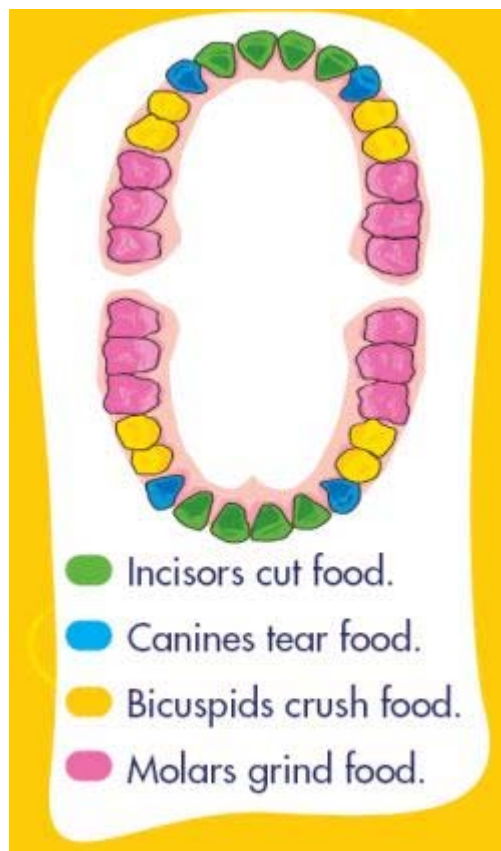
Reading Passage



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Teeth Tasks



Jeff Shake

You will have 32 teeth by the time you are an adult. There are four different types of teeth. Each has a special job.

Brushing twice a day and flossing regularly will help keep your teeth healthy. It is also important to visit a dentist twice a year. A dentist is a doctor who cares for teeth.

Question Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Smile! Show Off Those Pearly Whites” Questions

- _____ 1. The author wrote this article
 - a. to encourage the readers to take care of their teeth.
 - b. to inform the readers about different kinds teeth and their functions.
 - c. to warn the readers about the dangers of sharks, beavers and lions.
 - d. all of the above.

- _____ 2. The following animals use their teeth to capture animals for food:
 - a. beavers and lions.
 - b. lions and humans.
 - c. hippopotamuses and sharks.
 - d. sharks and lions.

- _____ 3. Beavers gnaw on wood
 - a. because they like the taste.
 - b. to trim their teeth.
 - c. gnawing trees and wood.
 - d. both b. and c.

- _____ 4. The author uses examples from many animals
 - a. to show a large variety of teeth.
 - b. to show many functions of teeth.
 - c. to compare the way different animals use their teeth.
 - d. all of the above.

- _____ 5. Why does the author include the diagram in the article?
