



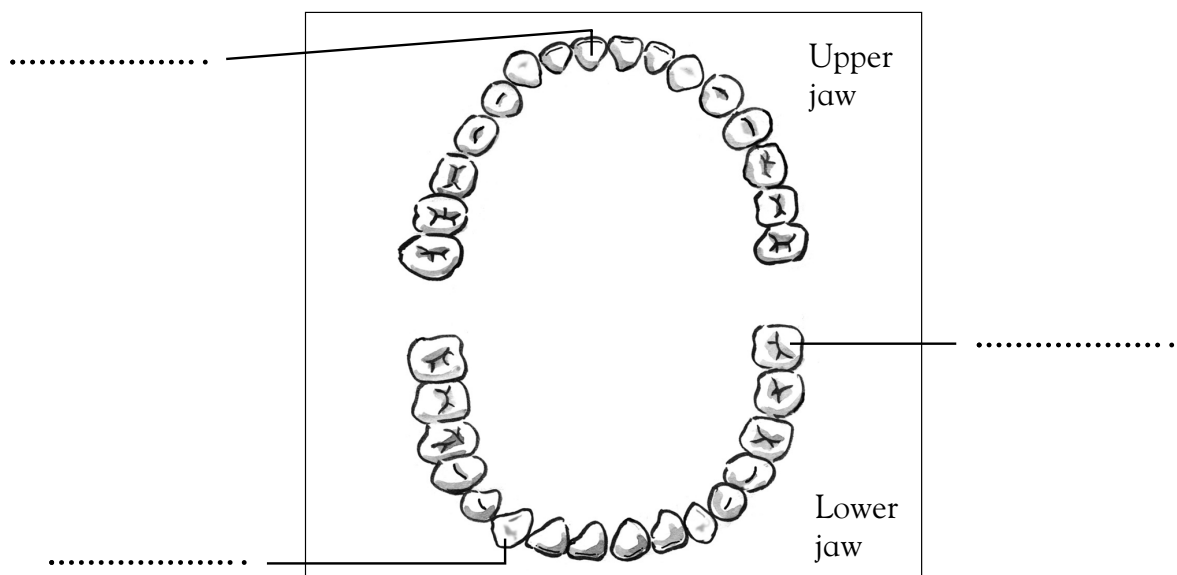
Something to chew on

Background knowledge

Humans have four different types of teeth. Young children have about 20 teeth called *milk teeth*. They have eight teeth called *incisors* at the front of the mouth (four above and four below). These are used for cutting food. The next four sharp, pointed teeth are *canines*, which are used for tearing food. Next to these are the *premolars*, used for grinding and chewing. Between the ages of 5 and 10, these milk teeth are replaced by adult teeth, which include another 12 teeth called *molars*. These are also used for chewing.

Science activity

Animals that eat meat have canines and incisors to cut and tear meat. Animals that eat plants have large, flat teeth called molars for grinding and chewing. Humans eat both meat and plants. What sort of teeth do humans have? Label each type of tooth in the diagram below.



A set of adult human teeth

Science investigation

Use a mirror to look inside your mouth. Then color in all the teeth that you have of each kind in the diagram above. You may not have all of the teeth in the diagram, as it shows an adult's teeth. Check with friends and some adults to see if they have the same number of teeth as you. Use disposable rubber gloves when you check inside someone else's mouth.





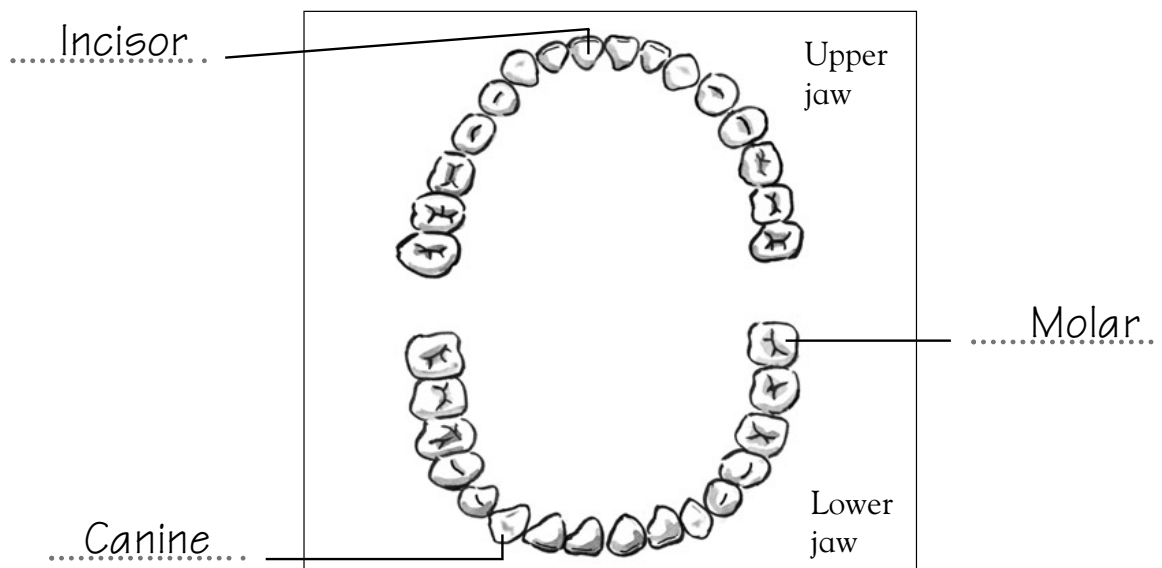
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Science investigation

Show the young investigator your molars (he or she may not have them yet). Encourage him or her to think about the purpose of teeth while eating food (chewing makes it easier to swallow food). Use disposable gloves when looking inside mouths.

