Name _____ Date _____

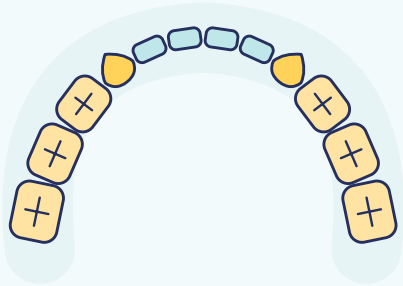
Teeth and their jobs

Digestion starts in your mouth. Each kind of tooth has its own job.

1 Learn



Your food's journey starts with a **chomp**! Teeth break food into small pieces that are easy to swallow and digest.



A jaw seen from above. The front of the mouth is at the top.

- **Incisors** are the flat teeth at the front. They **cut** and **bite**, like scissors.
- **Canines** are the pointy teeth next to them. They **grip** and **tear**.
- **Molars** are the wide, bumpy teeth at the back. They **grind** and **crush** food into mush.

Follow one bite of apple

1. The **incisors** bite off a piece.
2. The **tongue** moves it to the back teeth.
3. The **molars** grind it. **Saliva** (spit) makes it soft and wet.
4. It becomes a soft ball, ready to swallow.

Flip's tip: canine comes from an old word for **dog**. Think of a dog's long, pointy teeth, and you'll remember which teeth are the canines.

Warm up: write the name of each tooth.

 _____

 _____

 _____

Grown-ups: read Flip's words aloud, then point to each colour in the jaw picture and ask "What is this tooth's job?" Use the words cut, tear and grind: they are the words your child's class will use.

Name _____ Date _____

2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Tooth detectives

You need: a mirror and a slice of apple (or a carrot stick or a cracker).

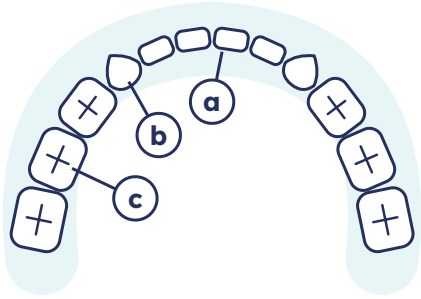
1. Smile into the mirror. Find your **incisors**, the flat teeth at the front. How many are on the top?
2. Find your **canines**, the pointy teeth just beside your incisors.
3. Open wide and find your **molars** at the back. Feel them with your tongue: are they flat, bumpy or sharp?
4. Take a small bite of apple. Which teeth bit it off? Now chew it slowly. Which teeth did the chewing? What did your tongue do?

Teeth	How many on top?	What shape are they?	What did they do to the apple?
Incisors			
Canines			
Molars			

Grown-ups: gaps and wobbly teeth are normal at this age, as milk teeth fall out and adult teeth grow in: just count what is there. Ask "Why don't we chew with our front teeth?" (They are thin and good for cutting. The wide molars are much better for grinding.)

3 Practise

A. This is a jaw seen from above. Name teeth **a**, **b** and **c**. Then count each kind.



a is an _____

b is a _____

c is a _____

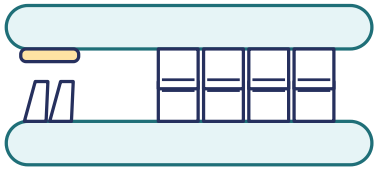
In this jaw there are ____ incisors, ____ canines and ____ molars.

Name _____ Date _____

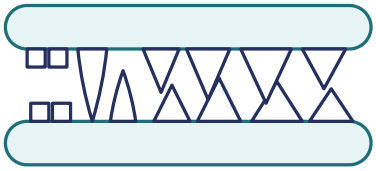
B. Which teeth do most of the work? Draw a ring round **one**.

Biting into a sandwich	incisors	canines	molars
Grinding a mouthful of cereal	incisors	canines	molars
Tearing meat off a chicken leg	incisors	canines	molars
Crushing a crunchy carrot into mush	incisors	canines	molars

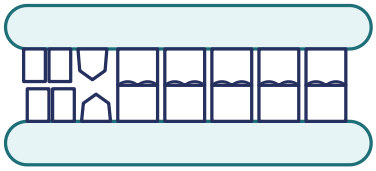
C. Whose teeth? Write **lion** (eats meat), **sheep** (eats plants) or **person** (eats both). The front of each mouth is on the left.



Whose? _____



Whose? _____



Whose? _____

How did you know which were the lion's teeth? _____

D. Fill the gaps with words from the box.

grind **tear** **incisors** **canines** **molars** **cut**

The _____ at the front _____ and bite food. The pointy _____ grip and _____ food. The wide _____ at the back _____ food into mush.

Challenge

Ava says, "My molars are the sharp, pointy teeth that tear my food." Is she right? Explain.

_____

_____

_____

I can…

Tick when you can.

- ☐ find my incisors, canines and molars
- ☐ say the job of each kind of tooth
- ☐ explain how a meat-eater's teeth are different from a plant-eater's