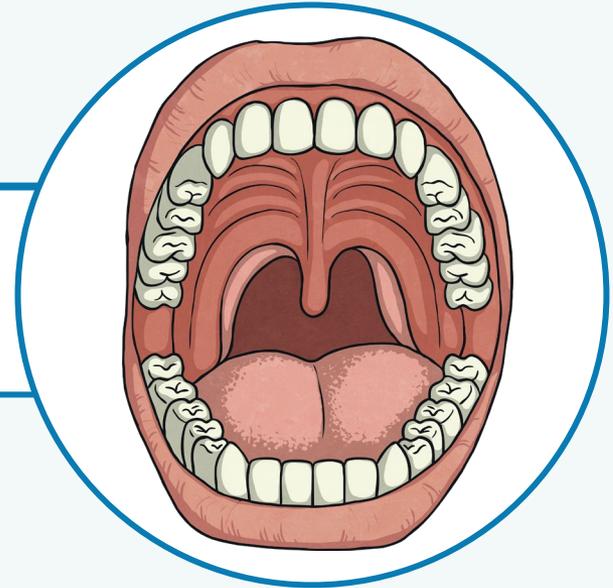
A detailed illustration of a human mouth, showing the upper and lower teeth and gums. The teeth are depicted in a stylized, cartoonish manner with white enamel and grey roots. The gums are a reddish-pink color. The tongue is visible at the bottom of the mouth. A teal banner is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title text.

Types of Teeth and Their Functions

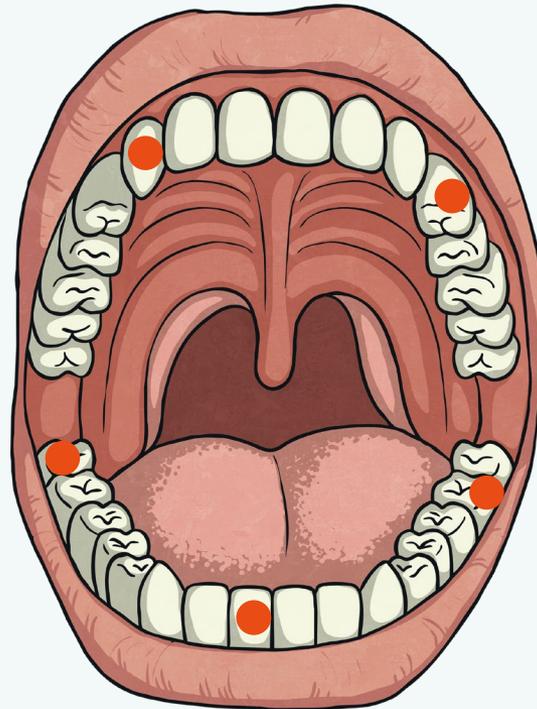
Teeth

I can feel that my teeth are different. Some are thin and quite sharp, others are thicker and have ridges along them.



Types of Teeth

Click on a tooth to find out more about it .

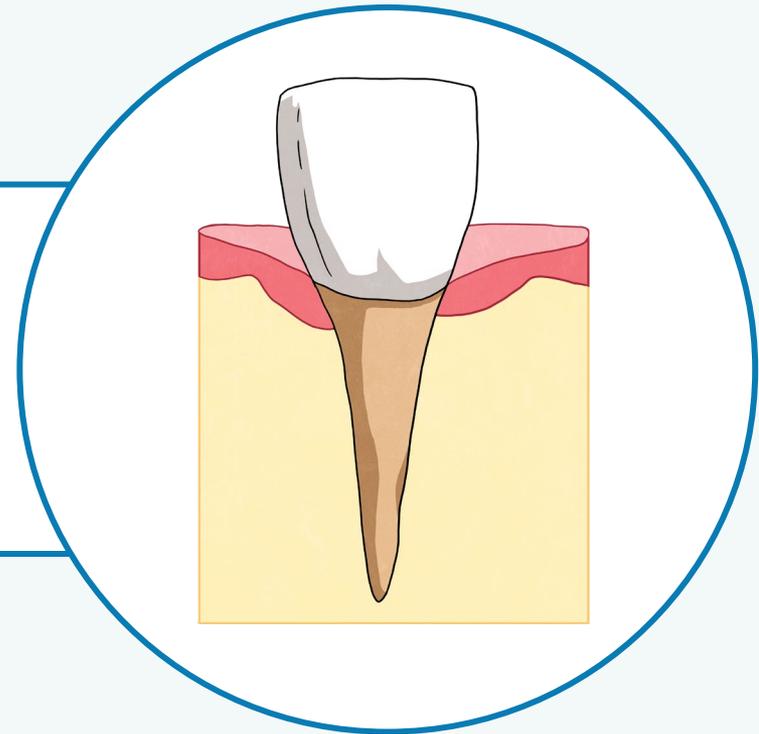


next



Incisors

Incisors are used for biting and cutting food. Think about biting into an apple. It is your incisors that bite into the apple and cut it up. They are at the front of your mouth, and you have eight of them. Four are on top, and four are found on the bottom.



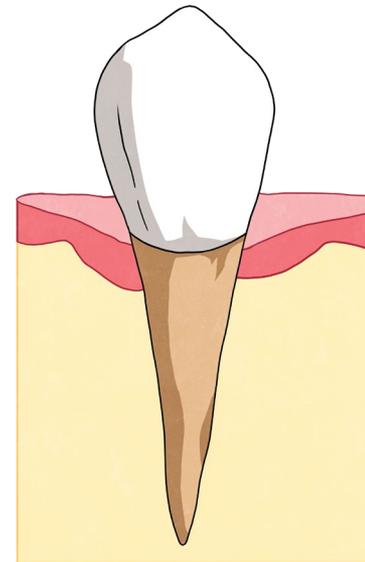
Did You Know?

Children have 20 teeth.
A full adult set contains 32 teeth.

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Canines

Canines are used for ripping and tearing food. Your canine teeth are on either side of your incisors, and you have four of them. The word canine means "something connected to dogs." Canine teeth are often pointed and sharp, similar to the teeth of a dog or wolf.



Did You Know?

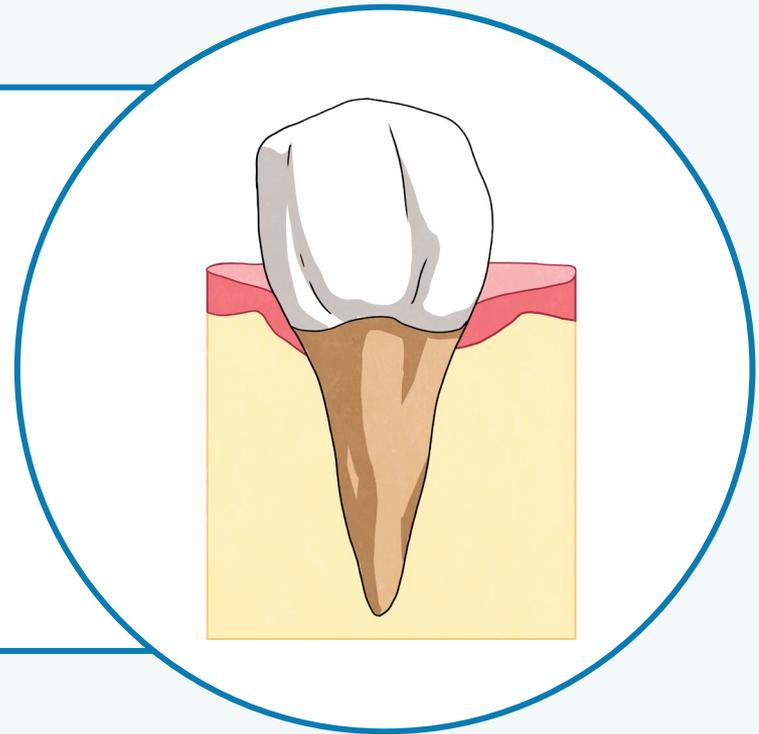
Carnivores (animals that eat only meat) have large canine teeth to help tear their food.

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Premolars and Molars

Near the back of your mouth are your premolars and molars. These teeth are larger and wider than the canine and incisor teeth because of their functions.

Premolars help hold and crush food and have a flat surface. Molars are bigger versions of the premolars. They are found in the very back of the mouth and are used to chew and grind food. Molars work with your tongue to prepare food for swallowing.



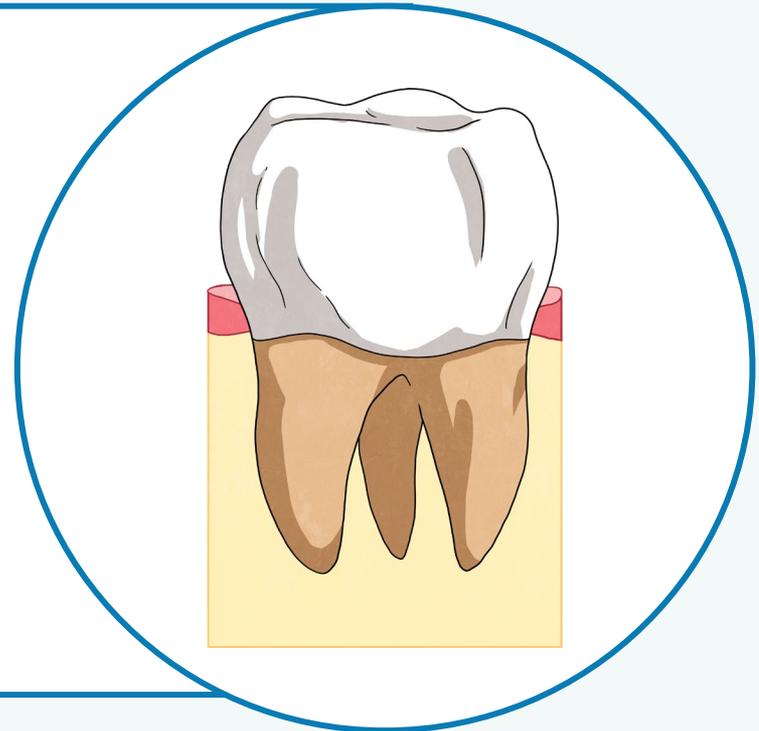
Did You Know?

Babies are born with all their teeth formed, even their adult ones! The teeth just haven't emerged through the gums yet.

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Wisdom Teeth

Wisdom teeth are an extra set of molars at the very back of the mouth. Despite their name, wisdom teeth are nothing to do with being clever! Scientists think wisdom teeth developed a very long time ago when our ancestors ate a diet of more coarse, rough food. They needed an extra set of molars to chew the food like roots, nuts, meat, and leaves. Over time, humans' diets have changed, and now wisdom teeth have no function. Wisdom teeth usually emerge in adults when they are around 18 years old or older.



Did You Know?

Many adults' wisdom teeth never emerge. Sometimes only one or two out of the four will emerge.

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Inside a Tooth

crown – The part of the tooth above the gum that you can see.

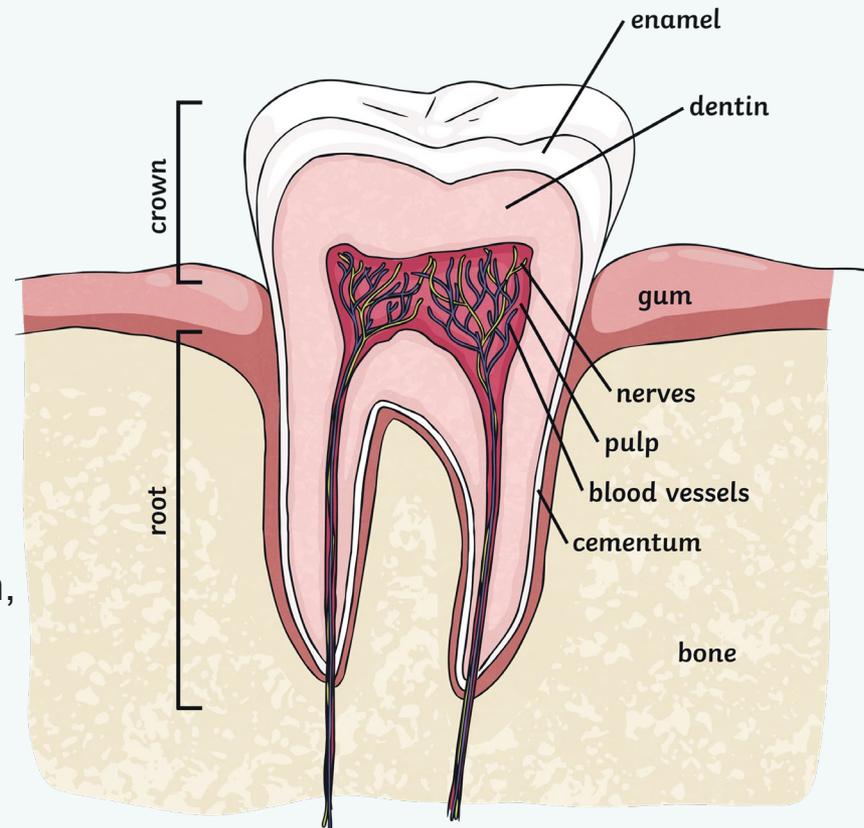
root – The part of the tooth hidden under the gum.

enamel – The shiny, white surface of a tooth. Enamel is the hardest substance in the human body.

dentine – A hard substance which protects the inside of the tooth.

pulp – The part of the tooth which contains blood vessels and nerves. The blood vessels keep the tooth alive. The nerves send messages to your brain, for example whether you are eating something very hot or very cold.

cementum – The layer which covers and protects the root of the tooth.



How to Care for Your Teeth

In 30 seconds, write down as many ways as you can remember about how to keep your teeth healthy.

How many did you think of? Here are some ideas.

- Brush your teeth twice a day.
- Brush your teeth for two minutes each time.
- Avoid too many sugary foods and drinks.
- Visit the dentist regularly.
- Choose drinks such as water and milk when possible.

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Why Do We Need to Care for Our Teeth?

My little sister has just lost one of her teeth, but that's alright because it is one of her milk teeth. She will have an adult tooth grow in its place. If I lose one of my teeth, I won't have another one grow in its place. I need to look after my teeth!



Did You Know?

When a shark loses a tooth, another one always grows in its place. Some sharks can have over 50,000 teeth throughout their lives!

