

A Smile for Science with Bea the Bee

Learning objective: To identify the different types of human teeth and describe their functions.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences where appropriate.

Bea the honeybee loves visiting the local school to explain how humans eat. Did you know that humans have four different types of teeth, each with a special job? At the front of your mouth, you have sharp, flat teeth called incisors. These are perfect for biting into a crunchy apple. Next to them are the pointy canines, which are designed to tear food. Further back in your mouth, you will find premolars and molars. These teeth are wider and have flatter surfaces, making them excellent for crushing and grinding food into smaller pieces. This process is the very first step of digestion. Protecting all of your teeth is a hard, shiny outer layer called enamel. It is the strongest substance in your body! However, you must take care of your enamel by brushing twice a day and avoiding too many sugary snacks. If you don't look after your teeth, bacteria can create tiny holes called cavities. Remember, healthy teeth are essential for a happy, healthy smile!

Word bank: incisors · canines · premolars · molars · enamel · digestion

1. Name the two types of teeth that are used for crushing and grinding food. (2 marks)

2. What is the name of the strong, shiny outer layer that protects your teeth? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think humans need different shaped teeth instead of just one type? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, what might happen if someone eats too much sugar and does not brush their teeth? (2 marks)

5. Why is it important to look after your enamel? Give a reason for your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a human mouth and label the incisors, canines, and molars. Show an apple being bitten to demonstrate how the teeth work.



Extension challenge: Research how many teeth a typical adult has compared to a child. Write a short paragraph explaining the difference.