

Max's Dental Discovery: A Guide to Human Teeth

Learning objective: To identify and describe the functions of different types of human teeth, and to understand the importance of dental hygiene.

Use this writing frame to create a scientific report. Max the monkey needs your help to explain how humans use their teeth to eat different types of food. Ensure you use technical vocabulary to describe the structure and function of the mouth.

Human teeth are remarkable biological tools that are perfectly adapted to help us process a wide variety of food sources.

Word bank: incisors · canines · molars · pre-molars · mastication · enamel · function · specialised · consequently · furthermore · in addition

1. Introduction: Describe the main types of human teeth. Start by saying: Humans possess four distinct types of teeth, each with a unique purpose... (3 marks)

2. The Incisors and Canines: Explain how these teeth interact with food. Start by saying: Incisors are sharp and blade-like, which allows them to... (3 marks)

3. The Molars and Pre-molars: Justify why these teeth are essential for digestion. Start by saying: The molars and pre-molars have large, flat surfaces designed to... (3 marks)

4. Dental Hygiene: Explain why it is vital to look after our teeth. Start by saying: Maintaining good oral hygiene is critical because if enamel is damaged... (3 marks)

5. Comparison: Compare and contrast the teeth of a human (an omnivore) with those of a strictly herbivorous animal. Start by saying: Unlike humans, a herbivore might have... (4 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: What might happen to the digestive system if humans lacked molars? Explain your reasoning using scientific vocabulary. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Max has challenged you to design a 'Tooth-Friendly Menu' for a school lunch. Create a meal plan and justify your choices by explaining how the textures of the food require different types of teeth to process them effectively. Consider the cost of your ingredients; if an apple costs 30p and a carrot costs 15p, calculate the total cost for a class of 30 children.