

Nova's Tooth Investigation: Year 4 Science Flashcards

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

Review these flashcards to master the anatomy of a smile! Use these to test your knowledge of how our teeth help us process food.

Incisors

Sharp, chisel-shaped front teeth used for biting and cutting food into smaller pieces.

Canines

Pointed, fang-like teeth used for tearing and ripping food.

Premolars

Teeth located between the canines and molars, used for crushing and grinding food.

Molars

Large, broad teeth at the back of the mouth used for thorough grinding and chewing.

Enamel

The hard, protective outer layer of the tooth that shields the sensitive inner parts.

Dentin

The layer of tissue found directly beneath the enamel, which makes up the bulk of the tooth.

Plaque

A sticky film of bacteria that forms on teeth; if not brushed away, it can cause decay.

What is the difference between a herbivore's teeth and a carnivore's teeth?

Herbivores usually have flat molars for grinding plant matter, while carnivores have sharp, pointed teeth for tearing meat.

Explain why it is important to limit sugary drinks to protect your teeth.

Sugar feeds the bacteria in plaque, which then produces acid that attacks the tooth enamel, potentially leading to cavities.

Justify why humans are classified as omnivores based on our set of teeth.

Humans have a mix of incisors for cutting, canines for tearing, and molars for grinding, allowing us to process both plant-based foods and meat.

What might happen to our digestion if we did not have molars?

Digestion would become much harder because we would be unable to break food down into small enough pieces for the stomach to process efficiently.

Compare and contrast the roles of incisors and molars.

Incisors are designed for the initial action of cutting or biting through food, whereas molars are designed for the final action of crushing and grinding food into a paste.