

Bea's Dental Discovery: Sorting and Investigating Teeth

Learning objective: Identify the different types of human teeth in their jaws and describe their functions.

Bea the honeybee has been studying how different animals eat. Use the word bank to label the three main types of human teeth, then match each tooth type to its specific function in the digestive process. For the final section, use your scientific knowledge to justify why humans have different shapes of teeth.

Word bank: Incisors · Canines · Molars · Crushing · Grinding · Tearing · Biting · Slicing

1. Match the tooth type to its primary function: Incisors are used for _____ and _____. Canines are used for _____. Molars are used for _____ and _____. (5 marks)

2. Explain why it is an evolutionary advantage for a human to have both sharp incisors and flat molars. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the teeth of a human (an omnivore) with those of a lion (a carnivore). Why would a lion have much larger, sharper canines? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If a human lost all of their molars, how would this impact the start of the digestive process in the mouth? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if a human's incisors were as broad and flat as their molars? How would this change the way we eat an apple? (2 marks)

6. 6. Research Task: Bea wants to know why wisdom teeth are often removed. Describe the biological reason why some adults do not have enough space for these teeth. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a human mouth showing the position of the incisors at the front, canines at the sides, and molars at the back. Label each type clearly.



Extension challenge: Design a 'Tooth-Friendly Menu' for a school lunch. Write a short paragraph explaining why your chosen foods are beneficial for dental health, specifically mentioning how the texture of the food interacts with our teeth.