

Nova's Tooth-tastic Science Quiz

Learning objective: To identify the different types of human teeth and describe their functions, and to understand the impact of diet on oral health.

Welcome! Nova the owl has been observing human habits. Use your knowledge of biology to answer these 10 questions. Remember to check your spelling!

Answer Key: 1. A (Incisors), 2. True, 3. Molars, 4. C (Enamel), 5. False, 6. Canines, 7. B (To grind food), 8. True, 9. Plaque, 10. D (All of the above).

Word bank: incisors · canines · molars · enamel · plaque · dentin · digestion · carnivore · herbivore · omnivore

1. Which type of teeth are sharp and blade-like, used primarily for cutting into food? A) Incisors* B) Molars C) Canines D) Wisdom teeth (1 mark)

2. True or False: Humans are omnivores, meaning our teeth are adapted to eat both plant and animal matter. (1 mark)

3. What is the name of the large, flat teeth at the back of the mouth used for crushing and grinding food? (1 mark)

4. Which part of the tooth is the hard, protective outer layer? A) Pulp B) Root C) Enamel* D) Dentin (1 mark)

5. True or False: Sugar has no effect on the development of plaque on our teeth. (1 mark)

6. Which teeth are pointed and designed for tearing food? (1 mark)

7. What is the primary function of the molars? A) To bite into apples B) To grind food* C) To tear meat D) To whistle (1 mark)

8. True or False: A healthy adult set of teeth includes wisdom teeth, though not everyone develops them. (1 mark)

9. What is the sticky film of bacteria that forms on teeth called? (1 mark)

10. 10. Why is it important to brush your teeth twice a day? A) To remove food particles B) To prevent decay C) To maintain healthy gums D) All of the above* (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a human mouth. Clearly label one incisor, one canine, and one molar. Add a small speech bubble for Nova the Owl explaining why we need different shapes of teeth.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why a herbivore might have different shaped teeth compared to a carnivore. 2. Justify why eating sugary snacks between meals is more harmful to tooth enamel than eating them during a main meal. 3. What might happen to the digestion process if humans did not have molars? 4. Compare and contrast the functions of incisors and molars. 5. If you were designing a new type of tooth for a human, what shape would it be and what would its function be? 6. Research and describe the role of fluoride in toothpaste and how it supports dental health.