

Nova's Dental Discovery: Sorting Our Teeth

Learning objective: To identify, label, and describe the functions of the different types of human teeth: incisors, canines, premolars, and molars.

Nova the Barn Owl is investigating how our teeth help us eat different types of food. Below is a list of descriptions. Match each description to the correct type of tooth by writing the name of the tooth next to the matching function. Then, draw a line from each tooth name to where you think it sits in a human mouth.

Word bank: Incisors · Canines · Premolars · Molars

1. I am sharp and pointed, perfect for tearing into food. Which type of tooth am I? (2 marks)

2. I am apartment and wide, located at the back of the mouth, designed for crushing and grinding food. Which type of tooth am I? (2 marks)

3. I am chisel-shaped and located at the front of the mouth, used for biting and cutting. Which type of tooth am I? (2 marks)

4. These teeth sit between the canines and the molars and help with both tearing and grinding. Which type of tooth are they? (2 marks)

5. Explain why it is important for humans to have different shapes of teeth rather than just one type of tooth for all food. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a human set of teeth. Label where you would find the incisors, canines, premolars, and molars. Use different colors to shade each type of tooth so Nova can clearly see the differences.



Extension challenge: Nova wants to know how animals eat! Research the teeth of a herbivore (like a cow) and a carnivore (like a lion). Write a short paragraph explaining how their teeth are shaped differently to suit their diets.