

## Tremendous Teeth

Were Stone Age teeth the same as our teeth?

### Learning Overview

**WHAT:** Identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions (Year 4 Animals Including Humans).

**HOW:** By making a simple model to identify and name different types of teeth in humans. By exploring which types of teeth were used to eat a range of food available around 2500BC.

**OUTCOME:** Pupils will learn to identify molars, canines and incisors and draw supported conclusions about the function of teeth and the types of food available at the time of Stonehenge.

### Resources



Activity Sheet 4



Small mirrors



White dough and red dough

### Key Vocabulary

Teeth, gum, molar, incisor, canine, functions.

### Setting the Scene: What are human teeth like today?

1. Ask pupils to open wide and take a look at their teeth in a mirror. How many teeth can they see and count? Do all of their teeth look the same shape and size?
2. Give each pupil some red dough and ask them to roll out a horseshoe shape to represent their lower gum. They should now insert model teeth by sculpting individual shapes of white dough to represent what they can see and feel in their mouth.
3. Pupils should discuss the following questions with a partner and then as a whole class:
  - What do you notice about your model teeth? Do they all look the same?
  - What are different shaped teeth used for?
  - Do you know the names of any different types of teeth?

### What do scientists tell us?

4. Explain to pupils that we have different types of teeth to do different jobs, or functions, when we eat our food. Flat, bumpy teeth at the back are called molars and they help us to grind and chew food. Pointy teeth towards the front are called canines and they help us to rip and tear food. Flat, sharp teeth at the front are called incisors and they help us to cut and bite food.

5. Share Activity Sheet 4 with pupils and ask them to place their model teeth in the space provided and label the molars, canines and incisors. They should then complete the sentences about different types of teeth and what they are used for.

### Exploring the Evidence: Human teeth in the Stone Age

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6. Ask pupils to think about whether a Stone Age person's teeth would have looked the same as theirs today? Think about cavities, fillings and amount of plaque. Gather ideas from the class and discuss why they think this.

7. Time permitting, they could make another model using red and white dough to represent what they think a set of Stone Age teeth might have looked like. Pupils could use these to make observations and comparisons.

8. Explain that teeth in the Stone Age were the same as teeth today – with molars, canines and incisors to help eat different types of food, such as pork and beef, wheat and barley, nuts, fruit such as apples and berries, leafy vegetables such as wild celery and nettles, cheese and honey.

### And finally...

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9. Pupils should complete the final part of Activity Sheet 4 by thinking about which teeth would have been used to eat each type of food – meat, crab apples, blackberries and cheese. Children should think about how apples may not have been as sweet as our modern domestic apples. They could even have a go at eating some of these foods themselves to back up their decisions. A lot of sweet foods are available now and people are used to eating sugary foods. This is very different to the Stone Age. Ask children to think about how sweet even a blackberry would taste if you are not used to having sugar.



### Fantastic Fact

Scientists have discovered evidence of rotten teeth in the Stone Age. Neolithic people may have cooked with cereals, wild fruits and nuts and perhaps even honey to make sweet foods. Some pig's teeth found at Durrington Walls show signs of decay. This could have been due to the pigs being fed a cereal mash, or some similar sort of sweet food. Honey was available but only as an occasional treat. Do children think that it would have been fed to pigs?