

TEETH

Teeth are classified as **incisors, canines, premolars, and molars.**

Your two front teeth, the ones on either side of them and the ones directly below are **incisors**. Incisors are shaped like tiny chisels, with flat ends. These teeth are used for cutting and chopping food i.e. crunching into the skin of an apple. Animals use them for grasping or picking, both in feeding and grooming.

The pointy teeth beside the incisors are called **canine** teeth. Because these teeth are pointy and also sharp, they help tear food. **Carnivores** whose diet consists mainly of meat most often use them for stabbing and holding prey and often have large extended canines for this purpose. Some **herbivores** (animals who eat only plants i.e. sheep) have no canine teeth. Humans are considered as **omnivores** as we eat both plants and meat and so have various types of teeth.

Next to your canine teeth are your **premolars**. They vary considerably in shape and size, from species to species. You have eight premolars in all, four on top and four on the bottom. Their shape is different from both incisors and canines. Premolars are bigger, stronger, and have ridges, which make them perfect for crushing and grinding food.

The teeth at the very back of your mouth are your **molars**. Children have eight of these, four on the top and four on the bottom but adults have twelve. They are even wider and stronger than premolars, and they have more ridges. They are used for grinding up food making it easier to swallow and digest.

Task 1: Tooth types

Every person's mouth has several different types of teeth.

1. Label the different types of teeth:

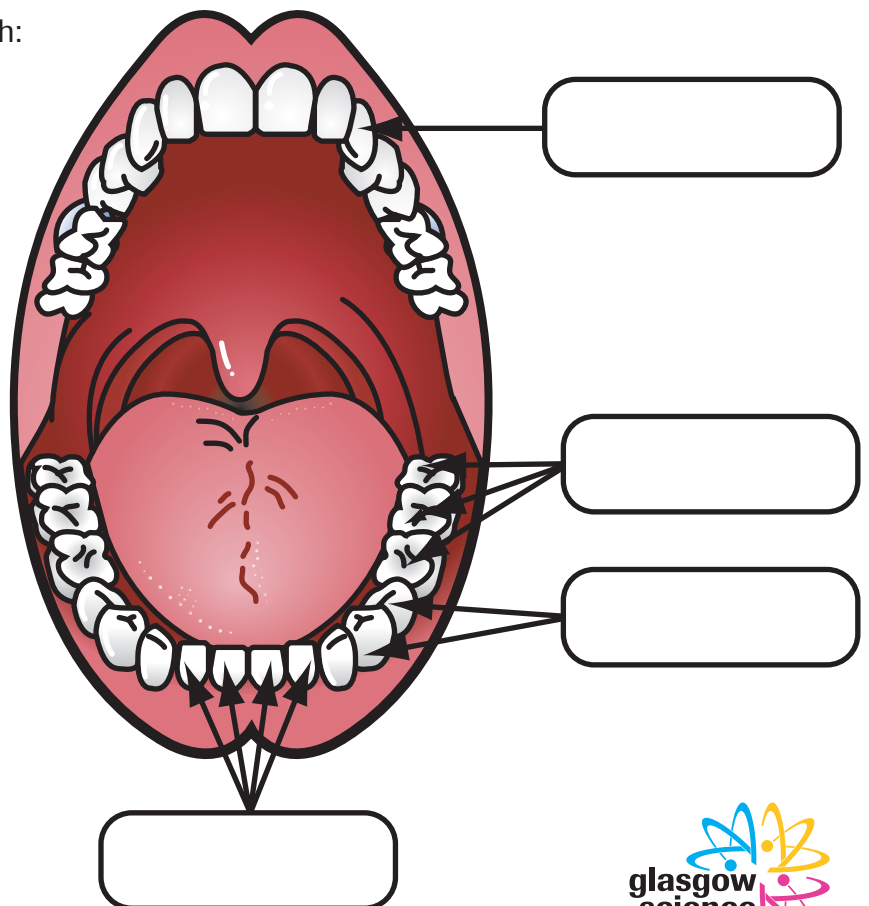
Choose from:

Incisor

Canine

Premolar

Molar



Task 2: Who do these teeth belong to?

The shape of an animal's teeth depend on what they eat, because different teeth have different functions.

2. Look at the pictures of teeth below and try to name which animal they belong to:



How many did you get right? Check your answers:
www.glasgowsciencecentre.org/teethworksheet.aspx