

# Chomp! Different Teeth Have Different Jobs

Teeth help you eat food. They chew, crush, and cut food. You have three kinds of teeth in your mouth: molars, incisors, and canines.

Molars are flat and wide. Incisors are sharp and long. Canines are pointed.

When you grow up, you will have 32 teeth in your mouth. Many animals have teeth. Are their teeth like yours?

## Cutting Teeth

Some animals eat just meat. They have teeth to cut apart their food. Those teeth are incisors and canines. They are long and sharp. Do you have teeth that are sharp?

## Many Teeth

Some fish have many rows of teeth. If a shark loses a tooth, a new one grows in its place. What happens when you lose a tooth?

## Long Teeth

Some animals have teeth that never stop growing. In elephants, those teeth are called tusks. Do your teeth ever stop growing?

## Crushing Teeth

Some animals eat just plants. They have teeth to crush or grind their food. Those teeth are molars. Do you have teeth like these teeth?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. What kind of teeth is sharp and long?

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2. What are the three types of teeth that we have?

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3. Why do you think that animals that eat just meat have incisors and canines?

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4. What is the Main Idea of this passage? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

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**Directions:** Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

*By the time you grow up, you will have 32 teeth that will help you chew, crush and cut the food you eat.*

Who? you

5. (will have) What?

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6. When?

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7. Why?

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8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Some animals just eat plants, \_\_\_\_\_ they have molars to crush or grind their food.

- A but
- B because
- C so

**Directions:** Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **crush** (crush): to press hard and break into pieces.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **crush**.

- a. To make peanut butter, you need to crush peanuts.
- b. Bob drove over a soda can with his car, crushing it right away.
- c. We learned how to use crushed toy parts to build a new and bigger toy from the broken pieces.
- d. Grandma crushed the ice cubes before using the smaller pieces to make the cold lemonade.
- e. It is possible to crush chalk into a fine powder with a hammer.

10. Would you want to crush your favorite pair of sunglasses?

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