**The Teeth:  Tooth Tales of Ripping, Grinding, and Tearing**

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| **Objective:** | to observe the different ways teeth begin digesting foods  http://www.henry.k12.ga.us/cur/mybody/transprnt.gif |
| **Student Information:** | Chewing is the first step in the digestion of food.Baby teeth are called **deciduous**which means to fall off at maturity. **Deciduous** teeth cannot grow to fit the adult jaw, so they fall out and are replaced by **secondary** teeth.  Teeth are not bones. They are much stronger than bones. Each tooth is made up of four layers: the **pulp**(containing the nerves and blood vessels), the **dentin**(the hard inside), the **enamel**(the tough outer coating) and the **cementum**(the outer coating of the tooth's roots, which cements the tooth to the gums). Types of human teeth: **canine** (sharp and pointy shapes used for cutting and tearing), **incisors** (big, flat wedge shapes used for biting food off), **bicuspids** (two-pointed shapes used for grinding) and **molars** (flat, squared shapes used for grinding).   http://www.henry.k12.ga.us/cur/mybody/transprnt.gif |
| **Materials:** | (for each student)   samples of foods such as apples, celery, leafy lettuce, nuts, raisins, cereal, pudding, cheese cubes, fruit leathers, peanut butter, prepared gelatin squares   http://www.henry.k12.ga.us/cur/mybody/transprnt.gif |
| **Procedures:** | 1.  Have students eat samples of the different types of foods. 2.  Ask - Did some foods require more chewing than others? Why? Which foods required tearing or grinding? Did any foods require no chewing at all? Why not?  http://www.henry.k12.ga.us/cur/mybody/transprnt.gif |
| **Assessment:** | Graphing  On chart paper, create a graph entitled "Teeth Tales" with columns labeled RIPPING, GRINDING, TEARING.  Have the students complete the graph by listing various foods under the correct column. |



**canine (also called cuspid)** - the pointy tooth located between the incisors and the premolars. A canine tooth has 1 root. Adults have 4 canine teeth (2 in the top jaw and 2 in the bottom jaw). Canine means, "of or like a dog."
**incisors** - the front teeth, used for cutting food. An incisor has 1 root. Adults have 8 incisors (4 in the top jaw and 4 in the bottom jaw).
**premolars (also called bicuspids)** - the teeth located between the canine and the molars. A premolar tooth has 1 root. Bicuspids have two points (cusps) at the top. Adults have 8 premolars (4 in the top jaw and 4 in the bottom jaw).
**molars** - the relatively flat teeth located towards the back of the mouth, used for grinding food. Molars in the top jaw have 3 roots; molars in the lower jaw have 2 roots. Adults have 12 molars (6 in the top jaw and 6 in the bottom jaw).

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| **Bone** - the hard supportive tissue in which the tooth's root is anchored. **Crown** - the visible part of a tooth. **Dentin** - the hard but porous tissue located under both the enamel (and cementum) of the tooth. Dentin is harder than bone. **Enamel** - the tough, shiny, white outer surface of the tooth. **Gum** - the soft tissue that surrounds the base of the teeth. | **Nerves and Blood Vessels** - nerves transmit signals, and blood vessels carry nutrients to the tooth - they run through the tooth's root within the pulp. **Pulp** - the soft center of the tooth. The pulp contains blood vessels and nerves; it nourishes the dentin. **Root** - the anchor of a tooth that extends into the bone of the jaw. The number of human tooth roots ranges from one to four. |

