

- A** Read the article. What different kinds of teeth help animals eat?

- B** Read the article again. As you read, look for details about the senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell).

## How Different Animals Eat

What have you eaten today? People eat foods that come from plants, and they also eat foods that come from animals. We are **omnivores** because we can eat all kinds of food.



Humans have 32 teeth. They start to grow out of our **gums** in the first year of life. In the front of our mouths are our **incisors**, our eight front teeth—four on top and four on

the bottom. These teeth help us to **slice** our food. We use our incisors when we bite into an apple, and our **jaws** help us to **grip** the food. Next to our incisors are our four **canines**, two on top and two on the bottom. These teeth help us to tear the food, which helps us to break it into

smaller pieces. Next are the **molars**. They have a round shape and flat top. This shape helps us to grind and **crush** the food. When we bite into a delicious treat or munch on a snack, all of our teeth help us slice, crush, and grind.

**Carnivores** eat mostly meat. Their canines are very long and sharp, so they can grip and kill the animals

**Think** What senses do these details make you think about?



they catch. Without sharp canines, they wouldn't be able to hunt animals for their food. The molars of carnivores are also sharp. Sharp molars help them cut and tear the meat as they eat it.

**Herbivores** do not have long sharp canines, and their molars are flat like ours are. They do not need sharp molars like carnivores do. Some herbivores, like horses and sheep, have a lot more molars than we do, and no canines. They need all those molars so they can grind and crush the plant foods they eat.

Our teeth and jaws are very similar to the teeth and jaws of gorillas and other apes. Most apes are herbivores. They eat plant foods like fruit, flowers, seeds, and leaves. Some kinds of chimpanzees also eat a little meat. That makes them omnivores. All animals with teeth—carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores—must have healthy teeth and gums to be able to eat!

## Comprehension

- A** Re-read these sentences from the reading. Write two phrases that give details about sight, hearing, taste, touch, or smell.

Next are the premolars and molars. They have a round shape and flat top. This shape helps us to grind and crush the food. When we bite into a delicious treat or munch on a snack, all of our teeth help us slice, crush, and grind.



- B** Circle the correct answer.

1 Why are we similar to herbivores?

- ☐ a Our molars are flat.
- ☐ b We only eat plants.
- ☐ c We have long, sharp canines.
- ☐ d We do not have any canine teeth.

2 How do our molars help us eat?

- ☐ a They help us bite into food and slice it.
- ☐ b The sharp, thin shape helps us to chew.
- ☐ c They only help us to eat meat.
- ☐ d The flat surface helps us to crush and grind food.

- C** **Words in Context** Complete the paragraph with the correct words.

detective dental gravity fillings treats munching

I was at the dentist. I was scared when the dentist gave me a serious look. Then he said, with 1, "You are going to need a lot of 2 work. I don't have to be a 3 to see that you have been 4 on a lot of sweet 5. You have three cavities in your teeth, and you must get 6 in all of them."



- D** **About You** Answer the questions.

1 Why do you think animals need different kinds of teeth?

2 What do you do to keep your teeth and gums healthy?