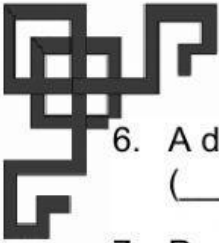


Name: _____ Date: _____

Wisdom teeth - Health Report

Choose the correct answer to the question: What is this?

1. Wisdom (_____) teeth are normally the (_____) last teeth to appear. This usually happens (_____) when people are in their (_____) late teen (_____) years or early twenties — in other words, when they are older (_____) and wiser (_____).
2. Wisdom teeth (_____) are molars, or chewing teeth, at the back of the mouth (_____). The third (_____) set of molars, if you (_____) have them, are your (_____) wisdom teeth.
3. They can (_____) grow into place normally and (_____) never cause a (_____) problem. But (_____) often there is not enough room for (_____) them in the mouth. They might (_____) crowd other teeth. Sometimes (_____) they even push sideways through (_____) the gums.
4. An (_____) impacted wisdom tooth is (_____) one that fails (_____) to completely rise through the gums — the term is erupt. Wisdom teeth that only (_____) partially erupt can leave space for bacteria (_____) to enter around the tooth. Infection is a risk in (_____) these cases.
5. Wisdom teeth that are not well aligned (_____) and become impacted are often removed (_____).

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6. A dentist in Chicago () works on the teeth of one of her () patients.
 7. People should have the placement of () their wisdom teeth examined between () the ages of sixteen and twenty. X-rays can show wisdom teeth that are below () the gums.
 8. The American Dental Association says () removal is generally advised when wisdom teeth only partly break () through the gums. Removal () is also advised if there is a chance that poorly aligned wisdom teeth will damage other teeth. And removal is called for () in cases where fluid collects around () a wisdom tooth that is partly or fully below the gum.
 9. But () why do we () have wisdom teeth if we often need to get them removed? One theory () has to do with our diets (). Scientists say the diet of prehistoric () humans probably required more chewing teeth. Life was probably a little rougher on the teeth back then (), too. So it was good to have extras ().
 10. The removal of wisdom teeth is performed by () oral surgeons. They say if removal is advised, the best () time to do it is before the teeth cause () any problems or pain.
 11. The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons says young () adults are the best candidates () for wisdom teeth removal. The group says () older patients may be at greater risk () for disease in the tissue surrounding the molars.
 12. Patients can have () general anesthesia during () the operation. Or () they might choose to have a local painkiller and remain awake. It may depend on () the condition of the wisdom teeth and the number to be removed.
 13. After () surgery, there can be swelling of the gums and face and some pain. Both can be treated with () cold wraps and medication ().
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