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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