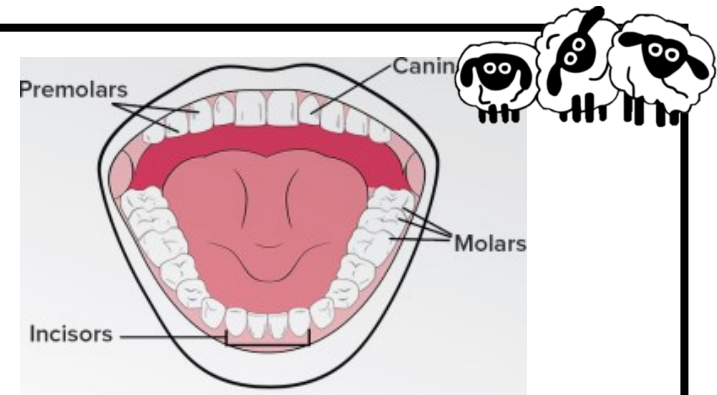


# Teeth and Digestion



## Curriculum Links:

- Describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans
- Identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions
- Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey

## Key Facts:

- Teeth are for cutting, grinding and chewing food; this is the start of the digestive process
- Humans must look after their teeth by brushing, flossing and making sure they eat healthily. If teeth are not looked after, this can lead to plaque and tooth decay
- Humans have the following teeth: Canines which are pointed teeth for ripping and tearing food, usually used when chewing meat ; incisors which are at the front of the mouth and used to take bites out of food; premolars and molars are large, flat teeth at the back of the mouth, they are used to grind and crush food
- The digestive system is the process of breaking down food and absorbing it into the body to use the energy
- The smell of food triggers the production of saliva. As food enters the mouth, the teeth grind it up and it mixes with saliva and is swallowed. It is squeezed down to the stomach using the muscles in the oesophagus. In the stomach the food is mixed and broken down further. It is then sent to the small intestine which absorbs the nutrients in the food. Anything leftover moves to the large intestine. The waste is then sent to the rectum where it is turned into faeces - it is stored here until it is pushed out by the anus. This is called excretion.

## Possible experiences:

- Recreate the digestive system
- Dentist visit
- Investigate the effects of sugary drinks on teeth
- Use plaque disclosing tablets
- Compare teeth of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores

## We should already know:

- Some parts of the human body and what they do
- Ways humans can keep healthy
- Animals are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores
- All animals need water, air and food to sur-

## Key Vocabulary

Absorb	To soak up or take in
Canine	Pointed teeth near the front of the mouth
Decay	The process of rotting
Digestion	The process of breaking down food
Enamel	The hard substance which covers teeth
Faeces	Waste matter remaining after food has been digested
Incisor	A narrow edged tooth at the front of the mouth, adapted for cutting
Intestines	A tube-like organ which food travels though from the stomach to anus
Molar	A grinding tooth at the back of your mouth
Oesophagus	A part of the body which carries food from the throat to the stomach
Plaque	A sticky substance containing bacteria on teeth
Premolar	Teethe between the canines and molars
Saliva	Watery liquid which helps digest food
Stomach	The organ where food is digested