

Terrifying Teeth!

What Did Dinosaurs Eat?

Student Introduction

- ✓ You will search in the sand box for fossil teeth.
- ✓ You will identify which creatures the teeth came from.
- ✓ You can use the fossil teeth to find out what prehistoric creatures ate.

Background

- ▶ Scientists use a key to identify which creature fossil teeth came from.
- ▶ Scientists can predict the diet of the different prehistoric animals and dinosaurs from their teeth.
- ▶ When you have found some fossil teeth you can use the worksheet to find out which creature they came from.
- ▶ If you can correctly identify which creature they came from, you will be able to keep 3 of the teeth!



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Search through the sand in the boxes. These boxes contain 50 million year old fossil teeth from Morocco in North Africa.

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STEP
2

Whose Teeth are These?

- ✓ Use the key on page 2 to work out which creature your fossil teeth came from.
- ✓ Tell the staff which fossil teeth you found.
- ✓ Choose the ones you would like to keep.

Student name: _____



Odontaspis tooth

YES

Is the point long and thin?

YES

Lamin tooth

NO

Has it got a root?

YES

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Identifying Teeth

Has it got a sharp point?

Ray fish tooth

YES

Has it got lines on the top?

NO

Pycnodont fish tooth

NO



STEP
3

What did dinosaurs eat?

The food eaten by animals determines the shape of their teeth.

Lions have well developed sharp teeth (incisors and canines) to tear the flesh of their prey.

Cows have lots of flat molar teeth to chew grass.

The incisors at the front tear the grass, then the well developed molars chew the grass.

Herbivores have lots of well developed molars.



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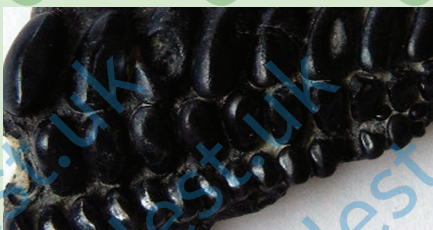
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Slicing teeth to tear large fish.



Grinding teeth with ridges to crush smooth shells.



Flat teeth to crush shells.



Piercing teeth to cut into small fish.

