Eating and Digestion

Learning Objective:

To identify the different types of teeth in humans and identify their functions.

Feel your teeth with your tongue.

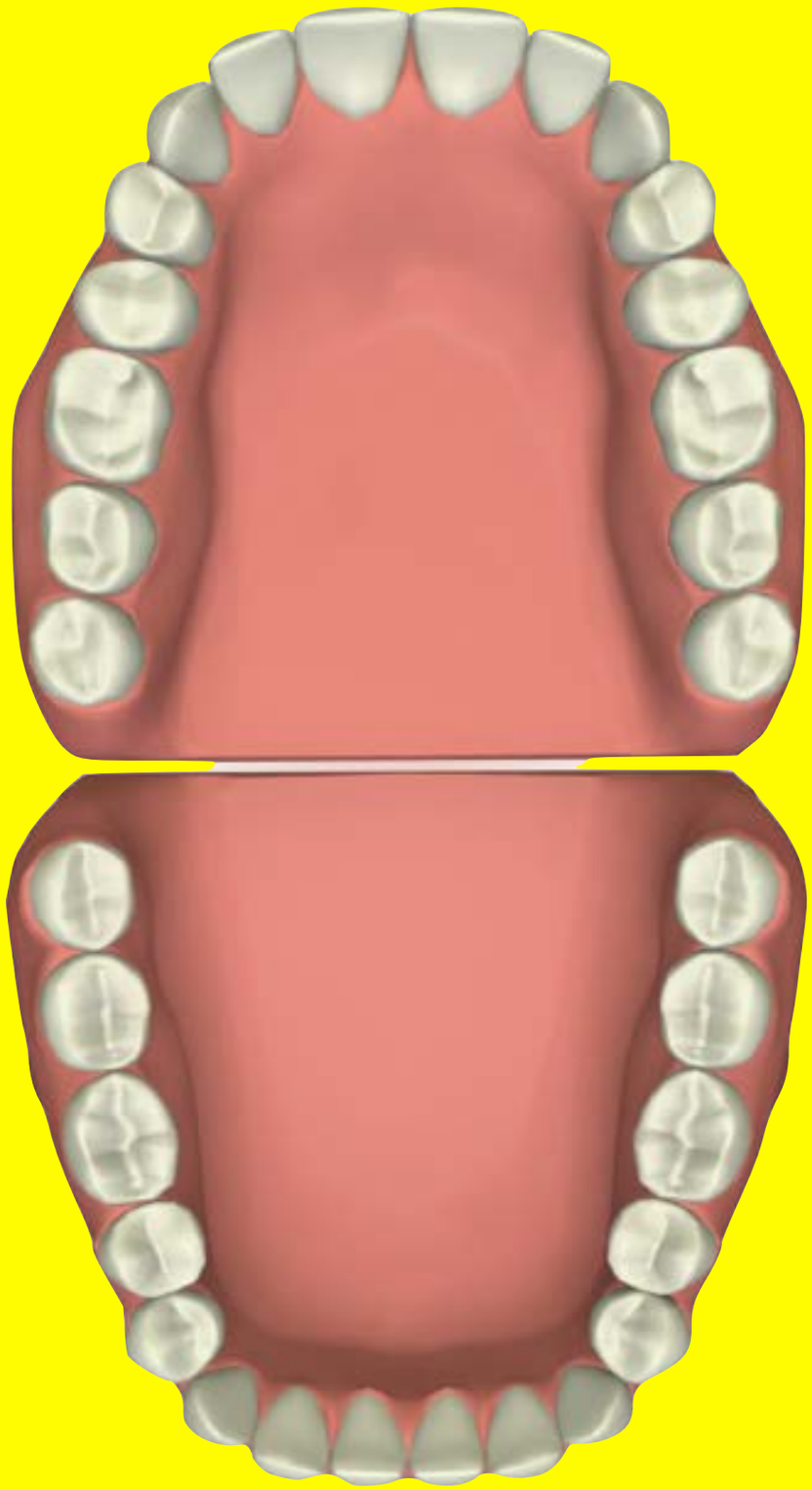
What do they feel like?

Do all your teeth feel the same?

Why do we have teeth?

We have teeth to help us eat. Teeth help us to cut and chew food to break it down so we can swallow it easily and start digesting it. Without teeth, all your food would have to be very mushy for you to be able to eat it! That is why baby food is soft - babies do not have teeth to chew their food so it has to be mushy.

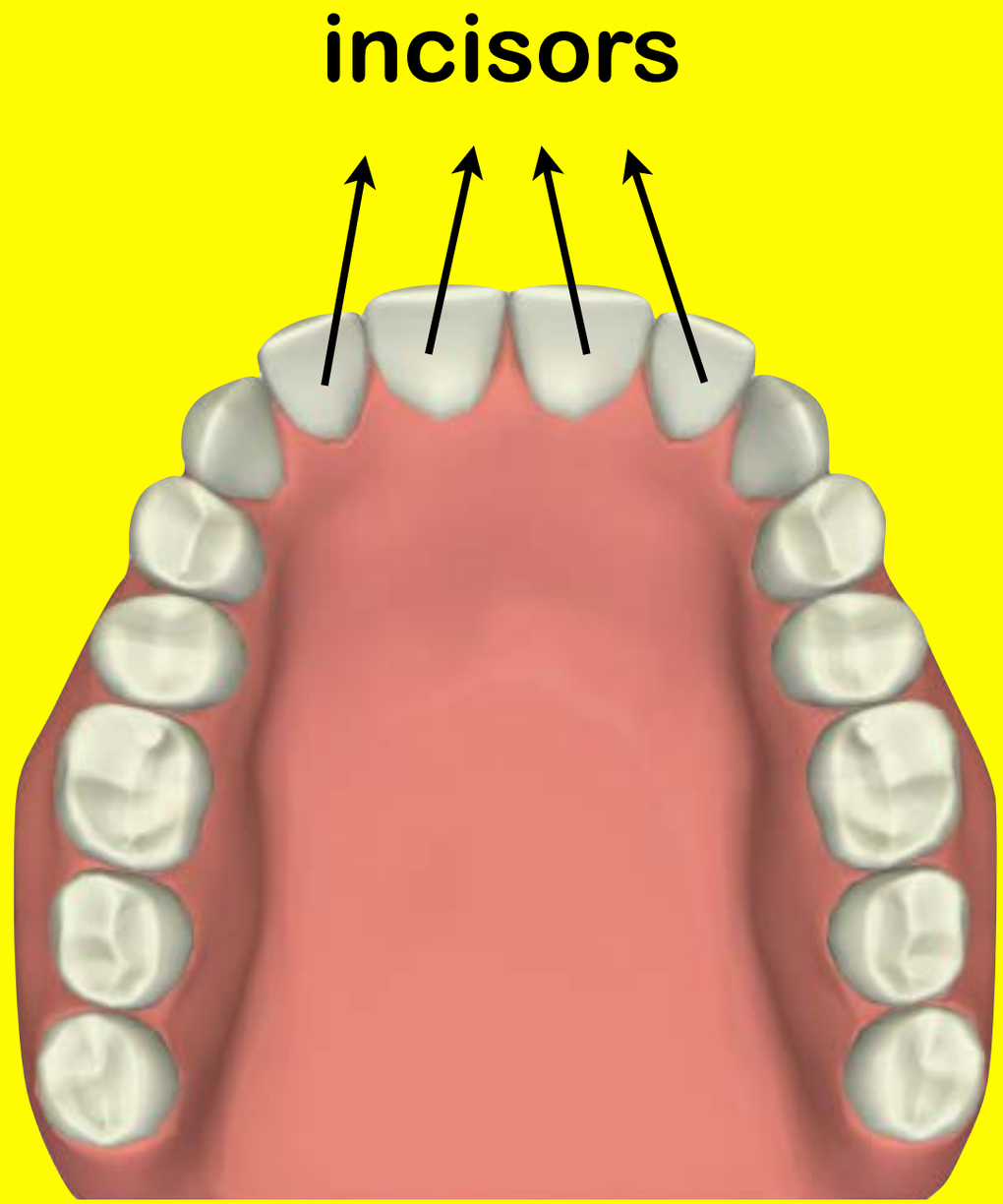
Have a careful look at these teeth.

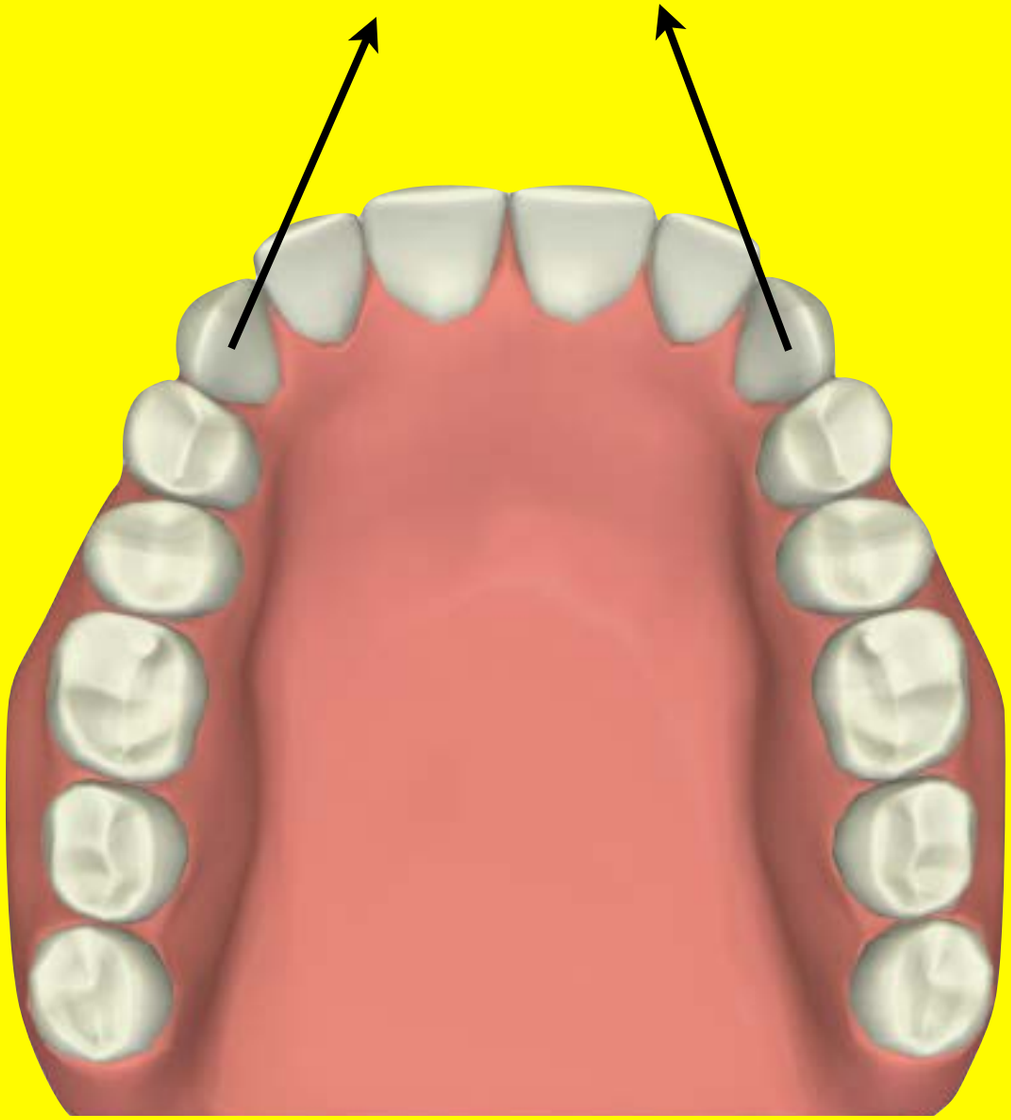


Do all teeth look the same?

What are the differences between the different types of teeth?

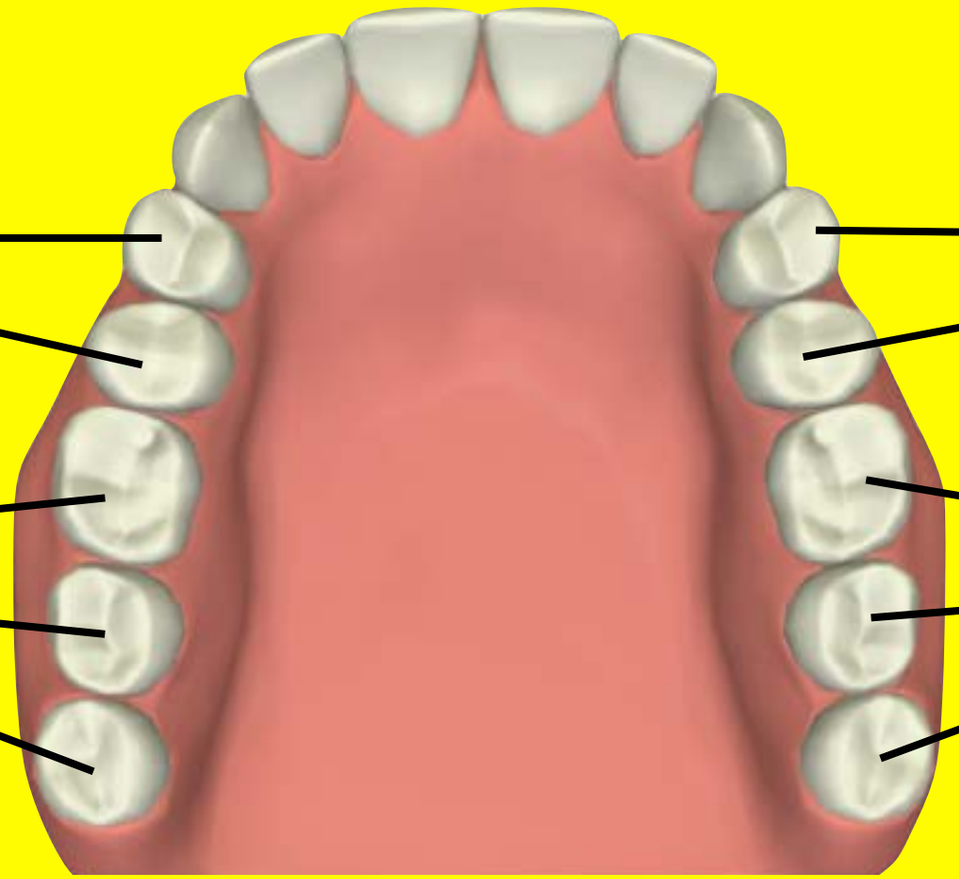
The teeth at the front of your mouth are called <u>INCISORS</u>. Incisors are used for biting and cutting food. Incisors are flat and have smooth edges.





Next to your incisors are the <u>CANINES</u>. Canine teeth are sometimes known as eye teeth. Canines are used for tearing and ripping food. Canines are pointy and sharp.

The teeth at the back of your mouth are called MOLARS. In adult mouths, the two teeth next to the canines are called premolars and the three teeth at the back of the mouth are molars. Children do not have premolars. Molars are bigger than the other teeth and have a flat surface for chewing and grinding food.



Teeth have roots that hold the teeth in place in the gums. If you feel your gums, you can feel the root of your teeth. It is important to care for your gums as well as your teeth so that your whole mouth stays healthy.

This picture shows how teeth are set in the gums and shows what your mouth would look like if your gums were clear.

Can you identify these teeth? Are they incisors, canines or molars?

This big tooth is called a _____.

This flat tooth is called an _____.

This pointy tooth is called a _____.

Can you remember what each of these teeth is used for?

Molar

Molars are used for chewing and grinding food.

Incisor

Incisors are used for biting and cutting food.

Canine

Canines are used for tearing and ripping food.

Did you get those right?