

Pre-Class and Post-Class Activities

Osteology

Note: The following discussions are completely optional and are not required for participation in the Osteology class. This information is provided as ways to build on this class and to be used at your discretion.

Pre-Class Discussions:

We will be discussing how the skull structures and teeth differ among carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. A discussion about the differences in diet between these groups would be beneficial.

Have kids analyze how they eat different foods – carrots, mashed potatoes, lettuce, meat, etc. Which teeth do you use to eat each food? Do you bite with your front teeth and then grind it with your back teeth? Do you just chew with your back teeth? How are teeth specialized to perform different tasks?

Post Class Discussions:

We have discussed how different animals' skulls and teeth have been specialized to their diet. Have the kids look at their own mouths and analyze their teeth to see what human teeth say about our diets.

Possibly discuss how humans are evolving to not have the last wisdom teeth.

What has changed in the human diet to make the wisdom teeth unnecessary?
If someone is a vegetarian do their teeth develop differently?