

Comparing Animal Teeth - KS2 Science

All animals need to eat food to have enough energy to grow and reproduce. We class animals into three groups depending on what type of food they eat:

- **Herbivores** eat plants
- **Carnivores** eat other animals
- **Omnivores** eat both plants and other animals.

Different animals are **adapted** to eat different food types. This means that animals' teeth can look very different, as they are adapted to help an animal chew, slice or even catch their food. By looking at an animal's teeth, you can usually tell what makes up that animal's diet.

Herbivores have **flat molars** at the back of their mouth that they use for grinding and chewing plant matter. Their **incisors** are flat, perfect for cropping grass or leaves and even chewing through wood.

Carnivores have large, sharp **canines** for gripping onto prey. Their sharp **incisors** help them slice and rip through meat. Their **molars** are also often sharp and not good for crushing food, meaning that many carnivores usually swallow large chunks of meat whole!

Omnivores have a mixture of different, specialised teeth. They have flat, crushing **molars** and sharp **canines** and **incisors**. An omnivore's canines and incisors tend to not be as sharp as a carnivore's, but they still help them to grab and slice through meat.

Some animals have very unusual or specialised teeth, which do not help them with eating at all! These can be used for display or even fighting other animals!

Your Task:

Research a herbivore, carnivore and omnivore of your choice. Draw each in the table found overleaf. Describe each animal's teeth and explain why this animal needs teeth like this in order to survive.

Not sure which animals to research? You can find lots of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores on Born Free's website: <https://www.bornfree.org.uk/animals>



Star Challenge

Each of the species below have very unusual or specialised teeth that they use in different ways:

- **Crabeater seal**
- **Narwhal**
- **Hippopotamus.**

Look up one of these species and include it in your table. Explain why it has unusual teeth, and what it uses them for. Are they for eating a certain type of food? Maybe they are used in fighting? Or even display?

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Species name and drawing	Describe. What are its teeth like?	Explain. Why are its teeth like this?
Herbivore		
Carnivore		
Omnivore		
Star Challenge		