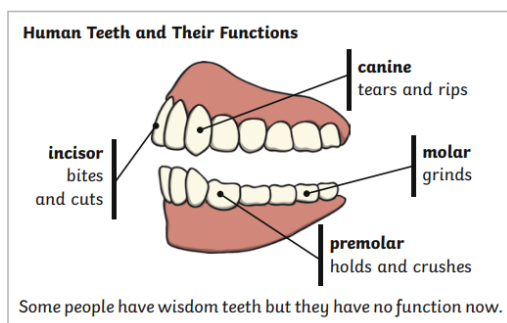


## Year 4 Science Knowledge Organiser – Teeth and Digestion

Teeth are used for cutting and chewing food. They start the digestive process which gives us the energy we need to live. Humans look after their teeth by brushing, flossing, and ensuring they do not eat foods high in sugar. Not looking after your teeth can lead to an increase in plaque and tooth decay.

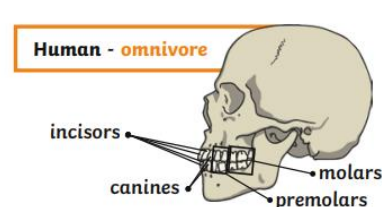
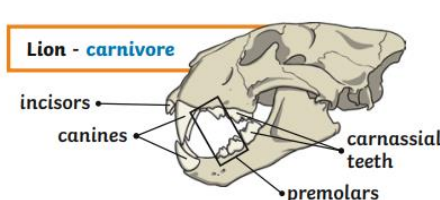
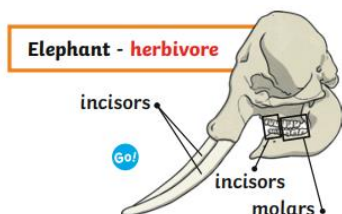


**Canine teeth** are pointed for tearing and ripping food – usually used for tearing meat.

**Incisors** are shovel shaped and help bite lumps out of and cutting food.

**Premolars** and **molars** are flat and they grind and crush food.

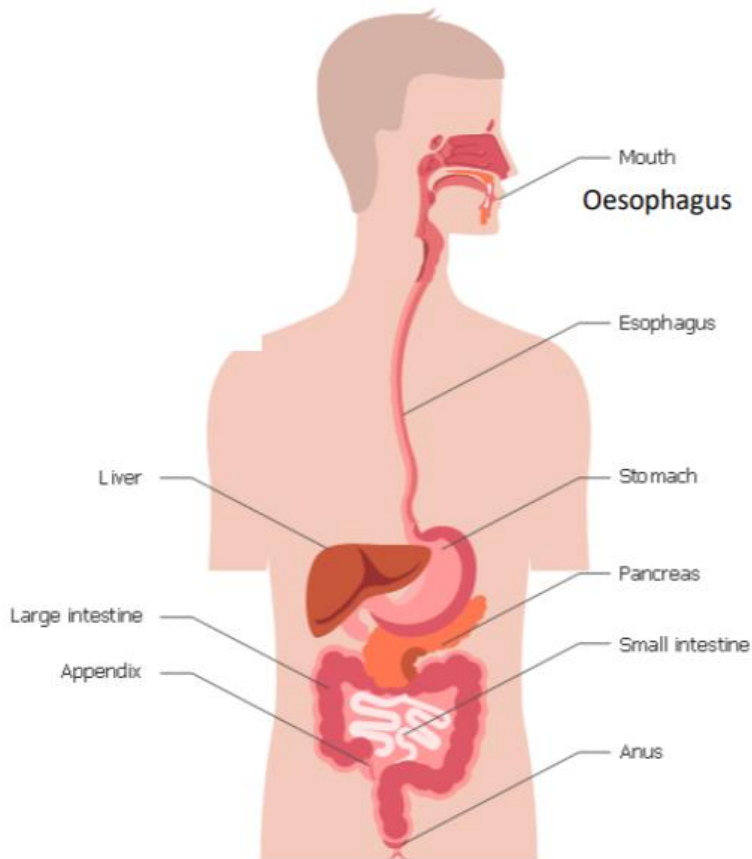
The teeth of an animal are designed to eat different foods, depending on the diet of the animal.



### Key Vocabulary

Decay	Gradually destroyed by a natural process
Digestion	Breaking down ingested food material
Enamel	The hard, white substance that forms the outer part of a tooth
Excretion	The process of eliminating faeces, urine or sweat from the body
Ingested	When animals or plants ingest a substance, they take it into themselves, for example, by absorbing it.
Intestines	The tubes in your body through which food passes when it has left your stomach
Nutrition	The process of taking food into the body and absorbing the nutrients in those foods
Oesophagus	The part of your body that carried the food from the throat to the stomach
Organ	A part of your body that has a particular purpose
Plaque	A substance containing bacteria that forms on the surface of your teeth
Saliva	The watery liquid that forms in your mouth and helps you to chew and digest food
Stomach	The organ inside your body where food is digested before it moves into the intestines
Producer	An organism, such as a plant, that produces its own food
Consumer	Consumers are animals that eat plants and other animals
Predator	An animal that hunts and eats other animals
Prey	An animal that is hunted and eaten by another animal
Food chain	A sequence showing the link between living things and what they eat
Herbivore	An animal that eats plants
Carnivore	An animal that feeds on other animals
Omnivore	An animal that eats both plants and other animals

## The Digestive System



- The smell of food triggers saliva to be produced.
- The digestive system begins with the mouth and teeth, where food is ingested and chewed.
- Saliva is mixed with food which helps to break it down.
- When the food is small enough to be swallowed, it is pushed down the oesophagus by muscles to the stomach.
- In the stomach, food is mixed further.
- The mixed food is then sent to the small intestine which absorbs nutrients from the food.
- Any leftover broken down food then moves on to the large intestine.
- The food minus the nutrients arrives in the rectum where muscles turn it into faeces. It is stored here until it is pushed out by the anus. This is called excretion.

## Food Chains

Living things are linked together by what they eat. A **food chain** is a sequence that shows the links between animals and what they eat. Plants are usually the first links in a food chain as they are able to make and store their own food, they are known as **producers**.

**Consumers** are animals that eat plants and other animals because they can't make their own food. Consumers that hunt and eat other animals are known as **predators**, whilst the animals that are eaten are known as **prey**. Some animals, like the common dolphin, can be both predators and prey.

### **An Example of a Food Chain**

The arrows in a food chain show the flow of energy.

