

Teeth

You bite into an apple and then try to tell your mum about what happened at school. But something feels funny.....one of your baby teeth has fallen out! It's been loose forever, and now there it is, right in your hand. You now have an empty space in your mouth and a brand new smile!



Before you put that tooth under your pillow, did you know that there is much more to that tooth than meets the eye? A single tooth has many different parts that make it work. And teeth play an important role in your daily life. They not only help you to eat apples, they also help you talk.

Milk Teeth



Unlike your heart or brain, your teeth weren't ready to work from the day you were born. Very occasionally, babies have the beginnings of their first teeth when they are born, but teeth don't usually become visible until babies are about 6 to 12 months old.

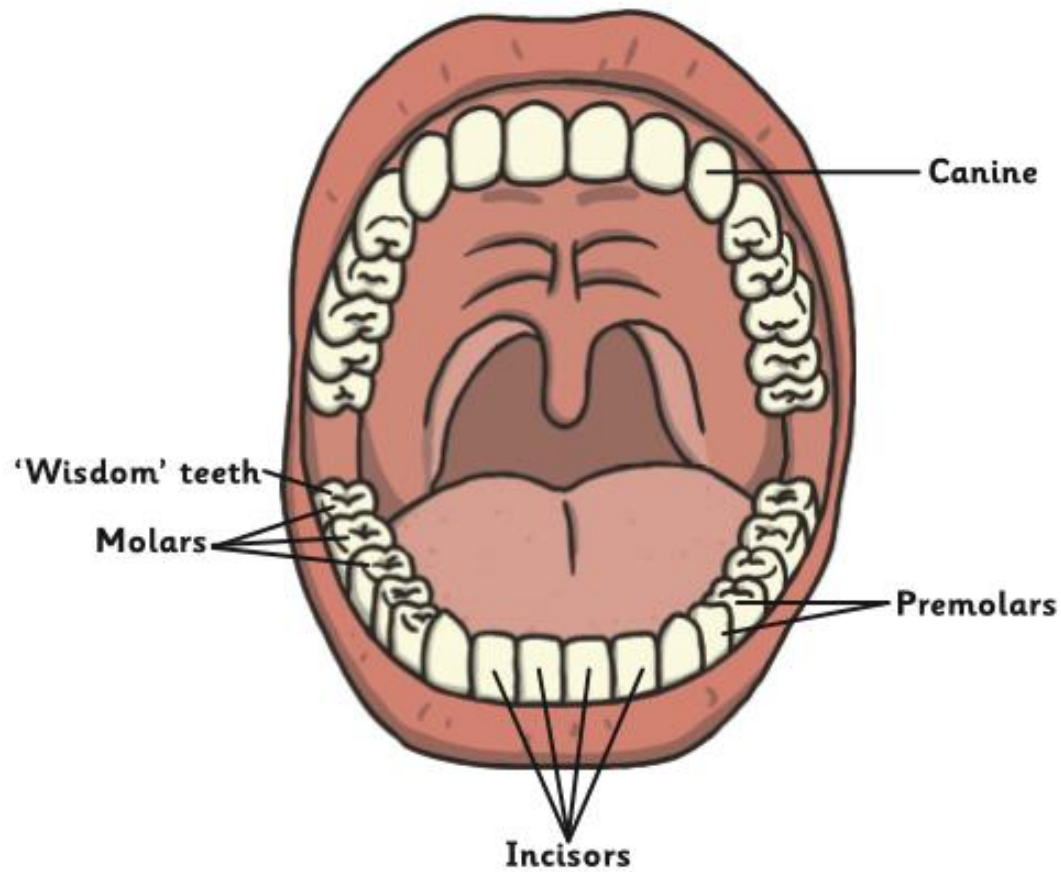
After a baby's first tooth breaks through, more and more teeth begin to appear, until there are 20. These teeth are often called milk teeth, or baby teeth. When a child gets to age 5 or 6, these teeth start falling out, one by one.

A milk tooth falls out because it is being pushed out of the way by the permanent (adult) tooth that is growing behind it. By about the age of 12 or 13, most children have lost all of their baby teeth and have a full set of permanent teeth.

There are 28 permanent teeth in all — eight more than the original set of baby teeth. Between the ages of 17 and 25, four more teeth called wisdom teeth usually grow in at the back of the mouth. They complete the adult set of 32 teeth.

Tooth Types

You've probably noticed that you have different types of permanent teeth in your mouth. Each one has its own function.



Type of Tooth	Description	Function
Incisor	sharp, shaped like a small chisel	used for cutting and shearing
Canine	pointed and sharp	used for gripping and tearing
Premolar	large and strong with ridges	used for grinding
Molar	wider and stronger than premolars, more ridges	used for crushing and chewing

According to the section 'Milk Teeth', at what age do young children's teeth usually start falling out?

. In the '**Milk Teeth**' section, it states that babies' teeth become 'visible' when they are about 6-12 months old. Which word has the **same** meaning as the word 'visible'?

Circle one.

noticeable

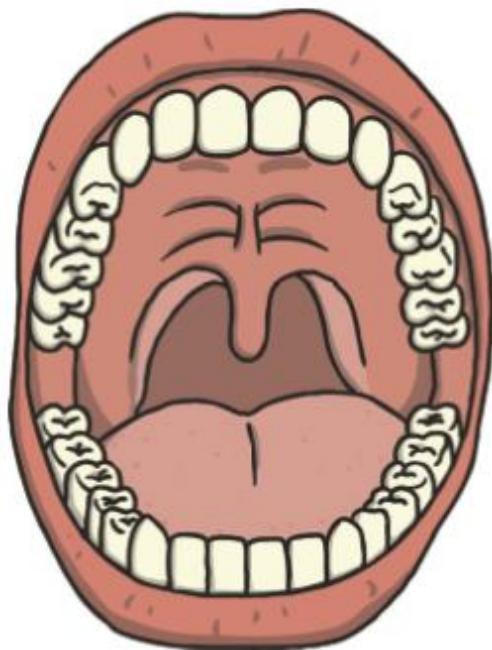
invisible

hidden

missing

. Look at 'Tooth Types'.

Using the information in this section, **draw lines** to match the tooth type to its position in the mouth.



canine

molar

premolar

incisor

. Using the information in the 'Tooth Types' section, draw lines to match these teeth to their function.

premolar

used for gripping and tearing

molar

used for cutting and shearing

canine

used for crushing and chewing

incisor

used for grinding