THOSE PEARLY WHITES

An exercise about animals' teeth and mouths

GRADE 4

KEY WORDS

- herbivore
- carnivore
- omnivore

STANDARDS

- SCI.4.3.2
- SCI.4.3.3

OBJECTIVES

- Students will make inferences about animal diets based on their teeth and mouths.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Animals that eat only meat are called carnivores. Due to meat's high protein levels, carnivorous animals generally do not need to eat as much as non-carnivores to obtain an equal amount of protein.
- Herbivores, or plant-eaters, must spend large portions of their waking hours browsing on bushes and trees, eating fruits or seeds, or grazing on grass. A large amount of plant material must be eaten to attain sufficient nutrients.
- Some predators eat both meat and plants, and are termed omnivores.

PROCEDURE

- Have students observe the skull pictures and teeth of each animal and decide which food each animal would likely eat.
- Discuss the definitions of herbivore, omnivore, and carnivore with students. Which animals fall into which categories?

ANSWER KEY

- Parrot — G & D
- Bat — D & A
- Monkey — A, D, F, J
- Sea Lion — H
- Red Panda — F, D, G
- Deer — B
- Flamingo — H
- Bobcat — E
- Lemur — D & F

EXTENSIONS

- Collect animal pictures and divide them into groups: predator/prey; carnivore, herbivore, omnivore. Make a bulletin board display or large collage of the pictures.
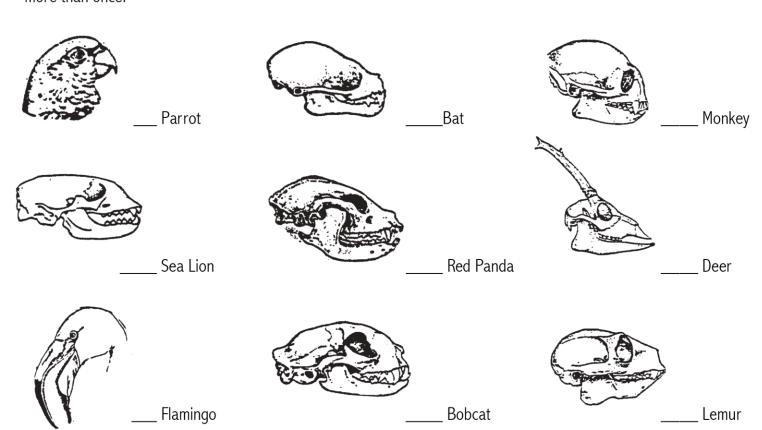
Name _____

"The better to eat you with, my dear!" Even the big bad wolf knew that an animal can only eat certain foods if it has the right mouth parts.

Look at the mouths on the left. Select which kind(s) of food each animal might eat. Place the chosen letter(s) on the line beside each animal name. Some animals may eat more than one type of food, and some foods may be used more than once.

___ Parrot   _____ Bat   _____ Monkey

_____ Sea Lion   _____ Red Panda   _____ Deer

___ Flamingo   _____ Bobcat   _____ Lemur

A.	Insects	F.	Leaves
B.	Grasses	G.	Seeds
C.	Fish and squid	H.	Krill, small shrimp
D.	Fruit	I.	Frogs, crayfish
E.	Mice, rabbits, and birds	J.	Nuts, acorns

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