Objectives

Students will observe the structure of various fossil teeth to determine their function (what the animal ate).

Students will classify the teeth into categories: herbivore, carnivore and omnivore (if possible).

Students will make a mold of their favorite tooth and describe the animal, its habitat, diet and interesting facts.

Materials

- Variety of fossil teeth or photos
- Fossil identification guides or websites
- Reference texts and online access to animal data
- Large, flat working surface
- Sorting Venn Diagram (herbivore/omnivore, carnivore)
- Materials to make molds: Tray/box, clay, plaster, vagabond model cast resin, lubrication agent, sandpaper, (optional: paints, brushes, spray coating.)

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What's for Dinner?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herbivore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnivore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omnivore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgments

- Florida Museum of Natural History
- [https://www.shutterstock.com/search/beef+ribs](https://www.shutterstock.com/search/beef+ribs)
- myFOSSIL community

Literacy Extension

- Creative writing activity after reading “What If You Had Animal Teeth?” By Sandra Markle. Ask students to imagine what kind of teeth they would need to adapt to an environment.
- Read “Once Upon a Mastodon.” Identify the different teeth of the animals in the book. What would they look like based on what they ate?