

# Discovering Skeletons

## Discovery activity sheet

Scientists can use many techniques to determine what animals were just by looking at their skeletons as they look at the relationship between shape and function. One of these techniques is observing animal's teeth. This can give us an idea of what they ate, which can give us clues to what the animal was. Take a look:



### OMNIVORES

Omnivores, such as humans, consume both plants and animals and have broad flat teeth at the front for biting, with grinding molars at the back.



### CARNIVORES

Carnivores typically have a diet of animals or insects (insectivores). Long, sharp front teeth help them tear into their prey, while knife, serrated back teeth help break the meat into smaller chunks.



### HERBIVORES

Herbivores, or plant eaters, have broad, flat molars at the back of the jaw to help grind up tough plant material. They typically have sharp chisel like front teeth for biting through hard wood and seeds – these continually grow to avoid being worn down. Herbivores have a space between front and back teeth to allow for the repositioning of food while chewing.

Knowing how we can use animal's teeth to determine what they eat, see if you can label the skeletons below with herbivore, carnivore or omnivore. For an extra challenge, try and name the animal!



**ANSWERS:**



Omnivore – Human



Carnivore - Crocodile



Omnivore - Rat



Herbivore - Squirrel



Herbivore - Rabbit



Carnivore - Dolphin



Carnivore - Dog (German Shepherd)



Herbivore - Llama



Herbivore - Wombat