

Mighty Molars

Waco Mammoth National Monument - PreK to Second Grade Activity



Target Age

Appropriate for ages 4 to 8, adjustable to special education groups

Objectives

- Learn how an animal's diet can be determined by examining teeth
- Practice new vocabulary
- Sort objects by category
- Use fine motor skills to create artistic object the child keeps

Materials

- Replica and genuine teeth and jaw bones with teeth intact
- Diagrams illustrating carnivore canines and herbivore molars
- Place mats labeled "HERBIVORE" and "CARNIVORE" (and "OMNIVORE" for grades 1 and 2) appropriately decorated for children not yet literate
- Saber-tooth cat puppet sheet, paper sacks, crayons and glue (pre-K and K)
OR
Shark tooth pendants, beads, and nylon cords (grades 1 and 2)

Procedure

1. Discuss different types of foods. Have children name some of their favorite foods. Ask if children have pets, and what kinds of foods they eat.
2. Using the diagrams, explain the differences between teeth and introduce vocabulary: HERBIVORE (plant eater) and CARNIVORE (meat eater). For grades 1 and 2, explain that an OMNIVORE will have both kinds of teeth. Have children repeat these new words.
3. Lay out mats and tell the group they will look at teeth and figure out what that animal ate. Let the children examine and touch the teeth. As an animal's diet is identified correctly, place the tooth or jaw on the appropriate mat.
4. Once all the teeth are categorized, ask the group which mat has the most teeth (herbivore). Explain that there are more plant-eating animals than meat-eating animals in the world.
5. Have the children move to a place where they will be seated comfortably to make art.

Pre-K and Kindergarten

6. Distribute saber-tooth cat puppet sheets to children. Ask them whether this animal was an herbivore or carnivore. When they answer correctly (carnivore), tell them it is a saber-tooth cat.
7. Explain how to color, cut out, and glue together paper sack puppets. Some children may require help assembling their puppets.

Grades 1 and 2

6. Distribute shark tooth pendants to children. Ask them what type of animal this tooth belonged to. When they answer correctly (carnivore), tell them they are shark teeth.
7. Have each child choose a cord and two beads. Show them how to assemble their items into a shark tooth necklace to take home. Children may require help tying knots in the cord.

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Head Start Domains/Early Childhood Learning Objectives

Language Development: vocabulary, communication with peers and adults

Literacy: print awareness

Mathematics: counting, patterns, matching and sorting, spatial sense, shapes

Science: observation through senses, compare and contrast natural objects, collecting information

Logic and Reasoning: symbolic representation, cause and effect

Creative Arts: art

Social/Emotional Development: self-concept, following instruction, cooperation, self-regulation

Approaches to Learning: initiative, maintain concentration, trial and error, group discussion

Physical Health Development: fine motor skills, nutrition, outdoor play

TEKS Alignment

Kindergarten

§110.11 ELA: 1.A C, 5.A C, 10.B, 19.A-B, 21.A-B, 22, 23

§111.2 Math: 1.C-E, 2.C D I, 6.E, 7.B, 8.A-C

§112.11 Science: 2.A-E, 3.B-C, 4.B, 5.A, 9.B, 10.A-B

§116.2 Physical Education: 6.A-B, 7.A-C

§117.2 Art: 1.A-B, 2.A-C

Grade 1

§110.12 ELA: 6.C, 14. A B, 24.A C, 27.A B, 28, 29

§111.3 Math: 1.C-E, 2.C, 8.A C

§112.12 Science: 2.A-E, 3.A, 4.A-B, 5.A, 9.C, 10.A

§116.3 Physical Education: 4.D, 7.A-C

§117.5 Art: 1.A-B, 2.B-C

Grade 2

§110.13 ELA: 5.B, 25.A C, 28. A B, 29, 30

§111.4 Math: 1.C-E, 10.D

§112.13 Science: 2.A-F, 3.B, 4.A, 5.C, 9.C, 10.A

§117.8 Art: 1.A-B, 2.B-C

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Teeth and Jaws



The Waco Mammoth Site has many teeth and jaws already, which can be used for this activity. A small number of teeth, either real or replica, could be acquired for use in this and other education programs.

Tooth Diagrams, Place Mats

To be designed in-house, minimal cost.

Necklace Parts

Shark Teeth can be purchased in bulk from Atlantic Coral Enterprise. Cords, beads, and jewelry wire can be purchased from local craft supply stores as needed.

Initial Cost of Program

Item	Cost	Cost per Student
Bin for storage	\$8	
Tooth props	\$50	
Place mats, three	\$10	
Jewelry wire, 12 yards (6 inches per student)	\$12	\$0.17
7mm stretch cord, 45 meters (60 cm per student)	\$23	\$0.31
Plastic bead asst, 250 ct (2 beads per student)	\$12	\$0.10
Shark Teeth asst, 1600 ct (1 tooth per student)	\$112	\$0.07
Diagrams and activity sheets	Negligible	
Total	\$227	\$0.65

12 yard wire makes 72 pendants

45 meters of cord makes 75 necklaces

250 beads makes 125 necklaces

Suggested cost per student: \$2.50

Number of sales needed to cover start-up cost: 91 students (approximately 3 school groups)

Estimated time to cover start-up cost: 2 months