

Curriculum Collections: What Teeth Tell us



ERN Item Type:

- Classroom Activities

Organization:

American Museum of Natural History (AMNH)

Website Link:

<https://www.amnh.org/explore/curriculum-collections/dinosaurs-activities-and-les...>

Description:

In the Hall of Ornithischian Dinosaurs at the American Museum of Natural History, robotic dinosaur skulls demonstrate how the dental adaptations of plant-eating dinosaurs worked. They show that as teeth wore down, new teeth grew to replace them. Paleontologists can tell a lot from the size of a dinosaur's skull and from the teeth in it. If the skull has powerful jaws and long, sharp teeth, then the dinosaur was most probably a meat-eater, a carnivore. The teeth were used to rip apart meat. Wide, flat teeth with ridges indicate that the dinosaur was a plant-eater, a herbivore. The teeth were used to mash and grind tough vegetation. This activity will introduce students to teeth and help them differentiate between the teeth of meat-eaters and plant-eaters.

Grade Level:

- K
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Tags:

- dinosaur
- fossil
- ecology
- biology
- activities
- k-5 geosource
- k-3
- k-4
- elementary school

Earth Science Big Ideas:

- Big Idea 1

Is this tagged to NGSS by the organization?:

No