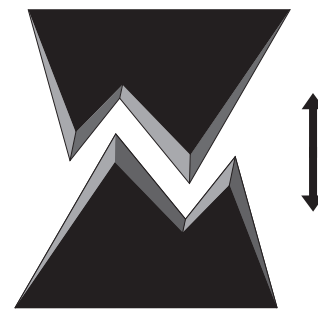


WHAT DO I EAT?

Use the information below to work out what these animals eat.

How can you tell what an animal eats just by looking at its skull? Easy, have a look at its teeth! Each type of **diet** needs teeth with different adaptations. It's all about the **crests, ridges** and **bumps** on each tooth...

Carnivores need their teeth to slice through meat. They have a special slicing tooth called the **carnassial tooth**. This is a large tooth usually with **five sharp shearing crests**. Carnivores move their jaw horizontally like scissors so the upper and the lower carnassial teeth can cut flesh from their prey.



Carnivores

Herbivores need their teeth to crush plants into small pieces so they are able to digest them. They have fairly flat teeth with lots of **ridges and crests** so they can grind up plants. They grind their food with their teeth not only with **horizontal** (forwards and backwards) **jaw movements** but also with **vertical** (up and down) jaw movements (try to eat anything by only moving your jaw up and down!).



Herbivores

Omnivores eat a variety of different things so they need teeth to process each of them. They usually use the teeth at the front to cut or pierce their food and the ones at the back to grind up their food. They use **horizontal and vertical jaw movements** to grind their food. Because their food might contain some **solid elements** (such as nuts, roots or even bones), they need harder teeth than herbivores, and therefore have **really hard bumps** on their teeth.

Piscivores eat fish and other sea creatures. Their food is therefore usually **soft** so they don't need strong teeth. However, fish and other sea creatures are slippery, so they need teeth that can grab and hold on to slippery objects. They use their numerous **conical pointy teeth** to do this.