

Read the text below and answer the questions.

# Teeth

You bite into an apple and then try to tell your mum about what happened at school. But something feels funny.....one of your baby teeth has fallen out! It's been loose forever, and now there it is, right in your hand. You now have an empty space in your mouth and a brand new smile!



Before you put that tooth under your pillow, did you know that there is much more to that tooth than meets the eye? A single tooth has many different parts that make it work. And teeth play an important role in your daily life. They not only help you to eat apples, they also help you talk.

## Milk Teeth



Unlike your heart or brain, your teeth weren't ready to work from the day you were born. Very occasionally, babies have the beginnings of their first teeth when they are born, but teeth don't usually become visible until babies are about 6 to 12 months old.

After a baby's first tooth breaks through, more and more teeth begin to appear, until there are 20. These teeth are often called milk teeth, or baby teeth. When a child gets to age 5 or 6, these teeth start falling out, one by one.

A milk tooth falls out because it is being pushed out of the way by the permanent (adult) tooth that is growing behind it. By about the age of 12 or 13, most children have lost all of their baby teeth and have a full set of permanent teeth.

There are 28 permanent teeth in all — eight more than the original set of baby teeth. Between the ages of 17 and 25, four more teeth called wisdom teeth usually grow in at the back of the mouth. They complete the adult set of 32 teeth.

## Terrific Teeth

The part of the tooth you can see is called the **crown**. The crown of each tooth is covered with **enamel**, which is very hard. Enamel is a tough substance that works as a barrier, protecting the inside parts of the tooth.



If you were able to peel away the enamel, you would find **dentin**. Dentin makes up the largest part of the tooth. Although it is not as tough as enamel, it is also very hard.

Dentin protects the innermost part of the tooth, called the **pulp**. The pulp is where each tooth's nerve endings and blood supply are found. When you eat hot soup, bite into a super-cold scoop of ice cream or fall and hurt a tooth, it's your pulp that hurts. The nerve endings inside the pulp send messages to the brain about what's going on. The pulp also contains the tooth's blood vessels, which feed the tooth and keep it alive and healthy.

The pulp goes all the way down into the root of the tooth, which is under the gum. **Cementum** makes up the root of the tooth, which is anchored to the jawbone.



Questions:

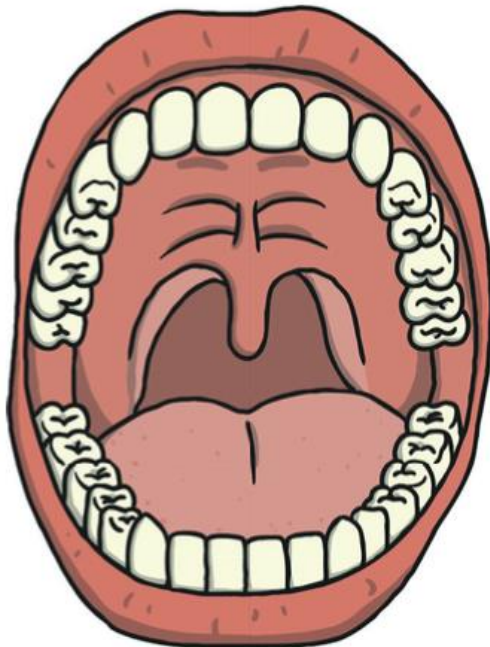
1. At what age do milk teeth start to fall out?
2. Look at the section 'Terrific Teeth' What is the crown of each tooth covered with?
3. In the milk teeth section it says that babies teeth start to become visible when they are about 6-12 months old. Which other word has the same meaning as the word 'visible'?
  - a) Hidden
  - b) Missing
  - c) Noticeable
4. Sammy does not look after his teeth very well. Give 2 reasons from the text that shows this.
5. Look at the section 'Milk Teeth' Find and copy a word which tells us that adult teeth are 'long-lasting'

6. Why does Belle think that her patients will not be eating any more bonfire toffee?

7.

. Look at 'Tooth Types'.

Using the information in this section, **draw lines** to match the tooth type to its position in the mouth.



canine

molar

premolar

incisor

8.

Using the information in the 'Tooth Types' section, draw lines to match these teeth to their function.

premolar

used for gripping and tearing

molar

used for cutting and shearing

canine

used for crushing and chewing

incisor

used for grinding