

MAMMAL TEETH MATCHING GAME

WHAT TO DO

1. Read these descriptions of mammals and their teeth.
2. Look closely at the teeth in the pictures on page 2.
3. Which description of teeth fits with which animal? Write the letter of the description in the box next to the picture.

A Saber-Toothed Cat

Lived in: North and South America

Extinct

These felines had ferocious knife-like teeth for killing and eating. They also used their massive teeth to display their dominance.

B Hippo

Lives in: Africa

Living today

These large, mostly plant-eating mammals have giant upper and lower canines. They use them to bite their opponents during fights! Their lower canines can weigh up to 7 pounds (3 kilograms).

C Capybara

Lives in: South America

Living today

These large rodents have ever-growing incisors. They use them to bite grass and plants. They can sometimes be found grazing alongside domestic cattle.

D Virginia Opossum

Lives in: North and Central America

Living today

These marsupials have small, sharp incisors and larger canines. This species is famous for faking death, or "playing possum," when threatened.

E Horse

Lives in: Domesticated throughout the world

Living today

These herbivores do not have canines. They have high-crowned teeth that they use for grinding tough grasses.

F Mandrill

Lives in: Western Africa

Living today

These large primates have big canines for display. But the silent flash of their canines isn't always intimidating. It can sometimes just mean "hello"!

G Thylacoleo

Lived in: Australia

Extinct

These meat-eating marsupials had huge incisors for biting. And they used their long, sharp premolars to slice flesh!

H Dwarf Mammoth

Lived in: Channel Islands of California

Extinct

These woolly mammals had long incisor-tusks, like those of living elephants. This species measured just 4 to 6 feet (up to 1.8 meters) tall at the shoulder.

I Bottlenose dolphin

Lives in: Coastal ocean waters worldwide

Living today

These marine mammals have cone-like teeth that all look the same. They're good for grabbing prey, like small fish and squid. But they're not good for chewing.

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