

## Science Lesson Plan for Intermediate Grades

### PURPOSE:

Students will learn the differences between incisors, canines, and molars, recognize them on the dinosaur, and use them to hypothesize about their diet/lifestyle.

### ILLINOIS STATE STANDARDS:

11.A.2b—Collect data for investigations using scientific process skills including: observing, estimation, and measuring.

11.A.2d—Use data procedures to produce reasonable explanations.

### ASSESSMENT:

Students will choose one of the dinosaurs, sketch its teeth composition, identify and label the kinds of teeth, and use the data to hypothesize the dinosaurs' diet/lifestyle.

### MODIFICATIONS—DIFFERENTIATION:

Students can simply label the different kinds of teeth from an already made diagram of a dinosaur's mouth.

### STRATEGIES TO PRESENT NEW CONCEPTS/INFORMATION:

The teacher will use inquiry and investigation to familiarize students with the different types of teeth on a dinosaur.

### MATERIALS:

For each student: one apple, a stick of celery, a piece of beef jerky, a large piece of paper, crayons (optional) and access to a presentation of dinosaur teeth whether through pictures or the actual dinosaur exhibit.

### OPENING:

The teacher will ask students if their teeth are all the same. The teacher will help students identify incisors, canines, and molars in their own mouths. The class will develop characteristics to describe each respective type of tooth. Incisors are the two, front, square-like teeth, canines are the two point teeth on the side and molars are the block-like teeth in the back of the mouth.

### PROCEDURE:

Students will be asked to take a bite of the apple first. Then they will be asked what teeth were used to cut into the apple. (They will have used their incisor teeth, then they will have used the molars in the back of their mouths to chew the apple.) Next students will eat the celery. Some will use their canines and the molar to bite into it, and then use the molars to chew it. Finally, the students will bite into the beef jerky and realize they used their canine teeth to tear it and their molars to chew it. After this experiment, students will have established that incisors are for cutting, canines are for tearing, and molars are for chewing. Generally, animals with many canine teeth (such as tigers,) need them to tear meat, so their diet largely consists of meat. Animals like beavers have large incisors in order to cut vegetation. Animals with many molars eat a lot of vegetables and use the molars to chew up their food.

## **Science Lesson Plan for Intermediate Grades (cont'd)**

### **PROCEDURE (CONT'D):**

Students will then sketch dinosaur teeth from a picture or the African Dinosaur exhibit, label the types of teeth (incisors, molars, or canines,) and hypothesize on the dinosaur's diet and lifestyle.

### **CLOSURE:**

Students will present their poster, tell the class the name of the dinosaur, show the types of teeth it has, and a hypothesis on their diet/lifestyle.

### **EXTENSION:**

Students can either look-up their dinosaur to test their hypothesis, and/or extend the lesson by learning the terms carnivore, herbivore, frugavore, and omnivore.