

This set of prehistoric teeth stones has been created to enable children to learn more about the natural world. By handling, observing, comparing and discussing these artefacts, children will develop their sorting skills. They will enjoy discussing the similarities and differences between the teeth, while developing descriptive vocabulary. The shapes and styles of the teeth lend themselves to using words such as curved, straight, rough/smooth, pointed, and so on. A tooth is included for Allosaurus, Iguanodon, Mammoth, Pliosaur, Ptychodus, Triceratops, Stegosaurus and Tyrannosaurus rex.



Key vocabulary

- Prehistoric
- Dinosaur
- Allosaurus, Iguanodon, Mammoth, Pliosaur, Ptychodus, Stegosaurus, Triceratops, Tyrannosaurus rex
- Sort
- Compare
- Similarities/Differences
- Different from / Similar to
- Long/Short
- Wider than / Longer than
- Point(ed)/Ridge(d)
- Sharp/Blunt
- Bite, chew, tear, grind, crush



Activity ideas

- Make imprints of the teeth in play dough, working cooperatively to complete the task. This works in the reverse too by pressing the dough onto the stone.
- Present the children with a range of play dough impressions arranged at different angles. Ask them to place the correct stone in the correct impression, moving the moulds as needed.
- Hide the teeth in bubbly water. Ask a child to hold a submerged tooth and describe it to others to identify. If you have the prehistoric teeth activity cards (see below), images of the teeth are shown on these, as well as on the teeth box.
- Lucky Dip: Bury the teeth and a range of other items – toy car, wooden brick, play figure – in a large container of sand. Invite a child to reach in and feel for an object. If they think they have found a tooth, they remove it from the container to see if they are right. If so, they place it to one side, and continue searching. At the point at which they remove something that is not a tooth, their turn is over and another child has a go.
- Take the opportunity to visit a museum with prehistoric exhibits, discussing what the children would like to find out before the visit, encouraging them to frame the questions that they would like to ask. Make drawings while you are there.
- Revisit the questions afterwards, incorporating vocabulary learned from the visit
- Create your own exhibition space with exhibits, labels and pictures, and invite parents/carers to visit. The children can be the prehistoric experts, sharing what they have learned.

- Use as an opportunity to explore oral hygiene, including instructions on how best to care for our teeth. Invite an orthodontist to talk with the children.

Extending the learning

- Look at the teeth in detail to see what can be learned about the diet of the prehistoric animals. Why are some teeth flat and others sharp?
- Apply learning to the teeth of other animals, domestic or wild
- Design posters to promote oral health to be shared with parents/carers.

Children's books featuring dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals

Ten Little Dinosaurs by Mike Brownlow

Everything You Know About Dinosaurs is Wrong by Nick Crumpton and Gavin Scott

The Christmasaurus by Tom Fletcher and Shaun Davies

Prehistoric Actual Size by Steve Jenkins

First Dinosaur Encyclopaedia published by Dorling Kindersley

Dinosaur Feathers by Dennis Nolan

Dinosaur Roar! by Henrietta Strickland and Paul Strickland



Can be used with Prehistoric Teeth Explore and Discover Activity Cards (YD1203). The cards will enrich many of the above activities. In addition, they will provide more details about the animals that the teeth belonged to: what they looked like, what they ate, what size they were.

