

Cutting Edge

Please use this information to help you and your pupils get the most from your visit.



Your workshop

Workshop name	Cutting Edge
Meeting point	School Reception and Picnic Area, Lower Ground Floor. Please be here five minutes before the start time. You will be met by a science educator who will lead your workshop.
Start time	Thursdays 10.45 and 13.00
Duration	50 minutes
Minimum ratio	1 adult : 10 pupils
Maximum group size	32 pupils Please ensure you meet the minimum adult : pupil ratio.

Before your visit

The Natural History Museum Cromwell Road London SW7 5BD United Kingdom +44 (0)20 7942 5000 www.nhm.ac.uk

It would be useful if pupils have already looked at their own teeth and know the names, shapes and functions of molars, canines and incisors. Familiarity with the terms herbivore, carnivore and omnivore would also support pupils' learning in the workshop. A letter aimed to engage parents and guardians will be sent with the booking confirmation and can be printed out and sent home prior to the workshop.

About the workshop

This interactive workshop looks at how teeth shape and position relate to function and diet. Pupils will use mirrors to look at and identify their own teeth and consider how they use the different types of teeth for eating. They will handle, observe and compare a variety of herbivore, carnivore and omnivore animal skulls, identifying the different shapes of teeth. They will use their observations to apply and develop their scientific knowledge and understanding of teeth and the different diets of animals.

They will also be challenged by one of our palaeontologists to decide which dinosaur eats what, based on their own observations of dinosaur skulls.

We encourage accompanying parents and guardians to take part in our activities and be actively involved. Parents and guardians will have the opportunity to join in our mammal skull activity and will be supported with resources designed specifically to aid them in discussion with their group.

Health and safety

Ensure pupils wash their hands after handling specimens. Pupils of different religions may have sensitivities to some animal skulls used in the workshop. Please be aware there are pig, warthog and cow skulls and notify the science educator before the session starts if these should not be handed out in the workshop.

A note about behaviour

Our experienced science educator will lead your workshop. We work to make it an inspiring and inclusive experience for all pupils and we rarely have problems with behaviour. However, teachers have overall responsibility for the behaviour of their pupils and we expect you to support us with this where necessary. Pupils benefit significantly when teachers and accompanying adults get involved in the workshops, so please do join in where appropriate.

Learning objectives

- pupils consider names, shapes, positions and functions of different human teeth
- pupils relate tooth shape and position to possible tooth function and decide whether two or three unknown animal skulls belonged to herbivores, omnivores or carnivores, using key vocabulary
- pupils use evidence from observations of shape, position and possible function of teeth to predict the diet of two unidentified dinosaurs
- pupils have an opportunity to interact with engaging specimens in a safe, supportive environment with education staff

National Curriculum links

This activity's content falls within the following statements, but does not necessarily support the breadth of content to which the statement refers.

Science

Key Stage 2 – Year 4

Animals, including humans

Pupils should be taught to:

- identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions
- construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey

Expected outcomes

By the end of the session

- Pupils will understand that animals use their teeth to eat and that there are different types of teeth used for different things.
- Most pupils will be able to name and identify molars, incisors and canines and describe their functions. They will be able to use this knowledge to identify herbivores and carnivores from their teeth.
- Some pupils will be able to explain in detail how animals without teeth are able to eat. They will be able to identify the skulls of omnivores by their teeth.
- Pupils will recognise that scientists work at the Museum and use the same skills as employed by the pupils in the workshop to help them identify the diets of animals (including dinosaurs).

After the show

You may like to complement the *Cutting Edge* workshop with a visit to our *Mammals* and *Dinosaurs* galleries. There are *Explore and Discover* guides available linked to these galleries, which may be suitable for the topics your pupils are studying at school.

Key Stage 2

- food chains and keys
- dinosaurs: take the comparisons test
- adaptation

Please see the full *Explore and Discover* primary series at

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/education/school-activities/self-led-activities/explore-discover-guides/index.html>. These guides cost of 50p each, which is payable before the day of your visit. For more information please contact our Bookings team on **020 7942 5555**.

After your visit

You may wish to challenge your pupils to design an animal tooth for a specific function and food source after their visit. Ask them to think about the habitat their animal lives in and what food it could eat. Encourage them to use the descriptive words and key vocabulary they used in the workshop.