

NATURE NEWS

THE OMNIVORE EDITION

DIET

SUMO'S SECRETS REVEALED: DIET SHOCK!

By Richard

Earlier today, Sumo the raccoon dog shocked the other animals in the zoo by revealing his secret diet - he is an omnivore!

For years, he had told the owls and Terry the raven that he was a carnivore and so only ate meat. The birds in the Europe zone told Nature News that they believed his lies because they often saw him eating quail, chicken, rats, mice, eggs and fish.

But, in a statement, he today admitted that he is an 'omnivore'. This means that he eats both plants and animals.



The zookeepers had known the truth for a long time. "You can tell from his teeth," one keeper said. "He has some sharp teeth for eating meat, but he also has strong, flat teeth for eating plants. Raccoon dogs eat all sorts of foods: birds, mammals, fruits, even berries and nuts!"

Sumo confessed that he lied because he thought carnivores were 'cooler'. All involved agree that he really should have told the 'tooth'.

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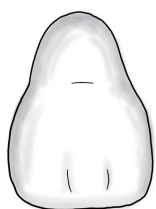
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TEETH

Could you be a Dentist?

Sumo shouldn't hide being an omnivore, there's so many tasty things he can eat! Omnivores have a range of different teeth to help them with their varied diet. Below are the best types of teeth for each diet.

Incisor



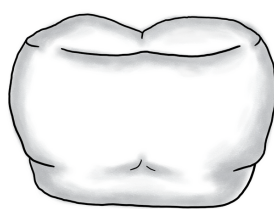
Used for cutting grass, fruit and meat

Canine



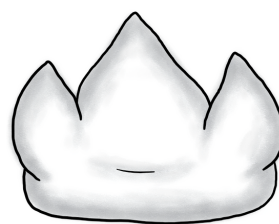
Used for slicing meat

Molar



Used for grinding up leaves, roots and vegetables

Carnassial



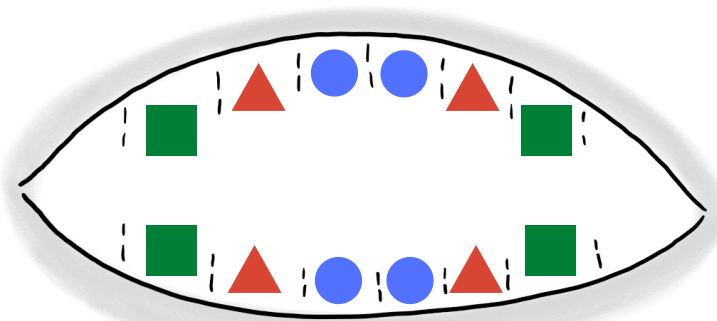
A special molar used for shearing lots of meat instead of plants

Rodent Incisor



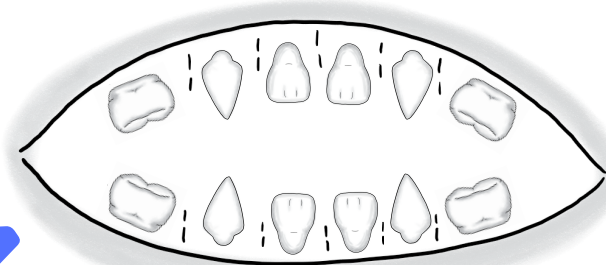
Used for gnawing on grains and seeds

You are the world's most famous animal dentist! Can you design a set of teeth for each animal's diet? For each animal, draw in the teeth they would need in the right place in the mouth. **If they don't need the tooth then leave a gap.**



- Incisors would go here
- ▲ Canines would go here
- Molars or carnassials would go here

A final set of teeth might look like this



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TEETH

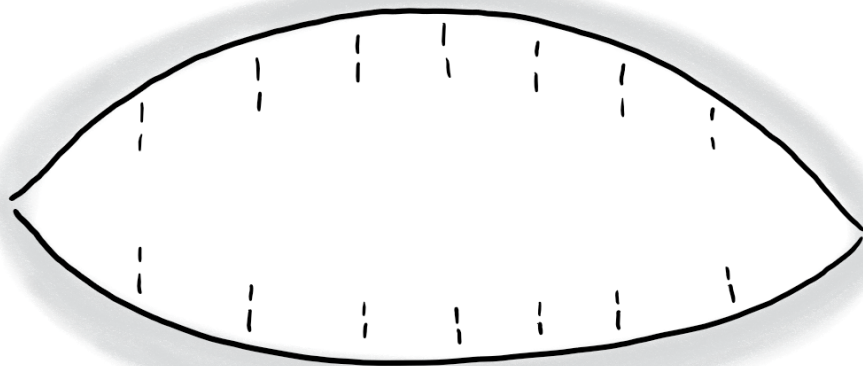
Give each of the animals the teeth they need for their favourite foods.

Harvest mouse

Diet: Herbivore

Likes to eat:

Seeds,
grains
and small
roots

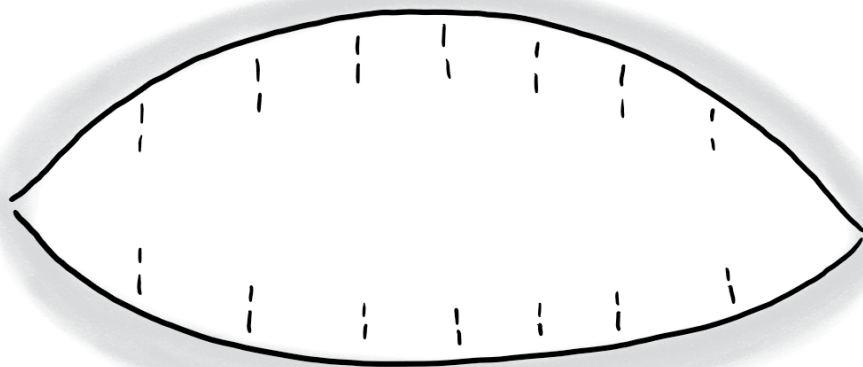


Serval

Diet: Carnivore

Likes to eat:

Meat!
Especially
rabbits
and
chicken

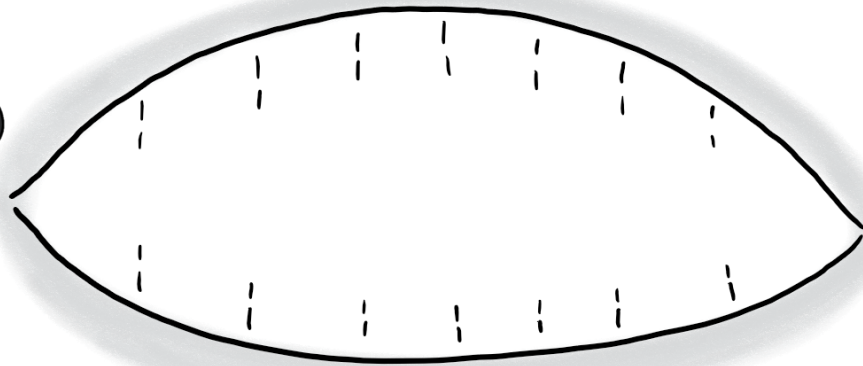


Lemur

Diet: Omnivore

Likes to eat:

Mostly fruit
and leaves,
with a little
bit of meat.



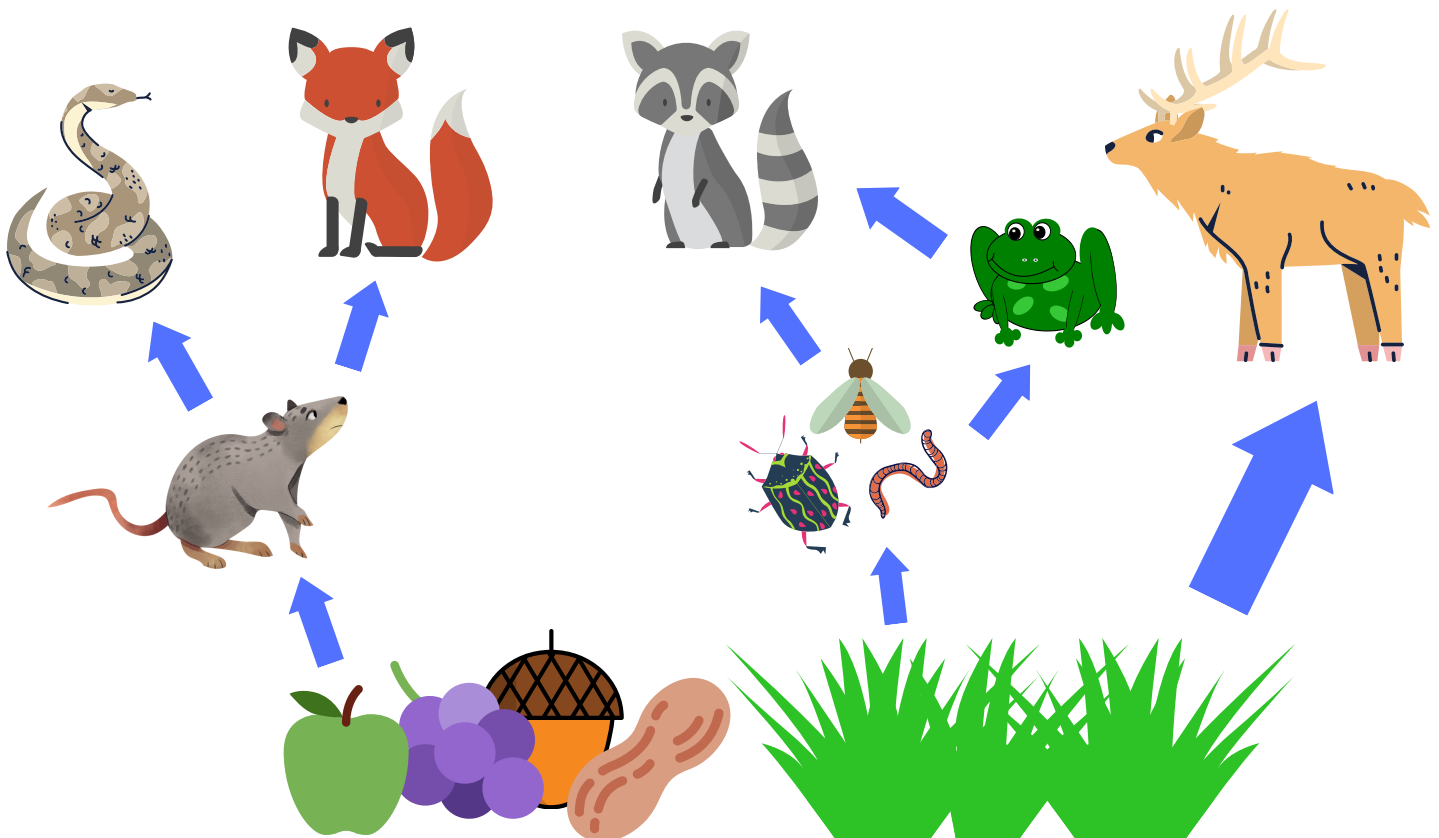
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FOOD CHAIN

The World Wide Web

In earlier issues of Nature News, we saw different food chains. If you put a few food chains together you make a 'food web', which shows how lots of animals are connected together. Raccoons and foxes are omnivores but you wouldn't know that from the food web below! Raccoons and foxes both eat fruits and nuts. Foxes also eat insects and bugs too. Can you add 3 arrows to complete the food web?



We've looked at the omnivores, but...

- 1) Can you find a carnivore in this food web? _____
- 2) Can you find a herbivore in this food web? _____
- 3) At the bottom of a food chain or web there is a 'producer', something which makes it's own food. Can you find a producer in this food web? _____
- 4) Animals are 'consumers', they eat other living things like plants or other animals for food. Can you find a consumer in this food web? _____