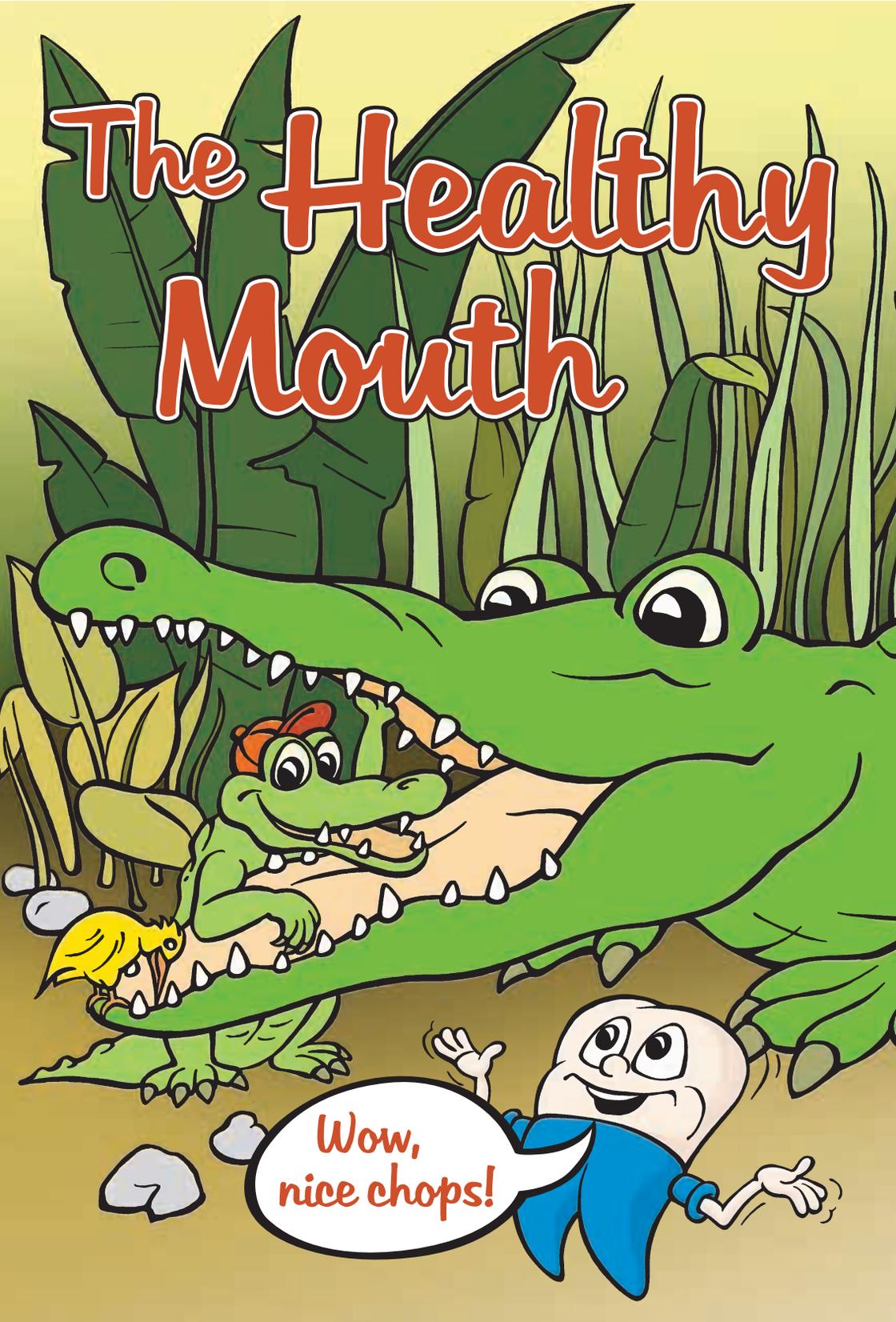


The Healthy Mouth



Wow,
nice chops!

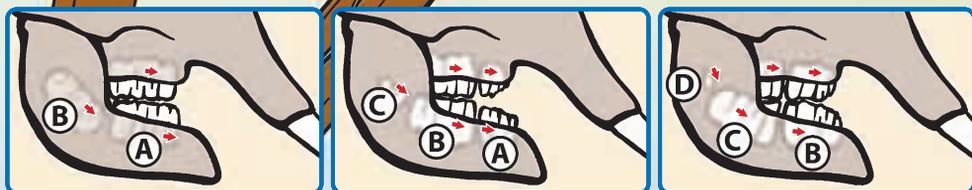


Barry the Beaver

Barry the Beaver's incisors are really strong and sharp like a chisel. They help him cut down big trees for building his famous dams. Of course, they also help him when he wants to eat his favorite food: delicious twigs and buds!



You can actually only see a tiny bit of Barry the Beaver's incisors because most of the teeth go deep down into his jawbone. Because his teeth go so deep, they are very stable – and they'd better be because he sure uses them a lot. Barry's teeth never stop growing and always push themselves out more and more – just like our fingernails.

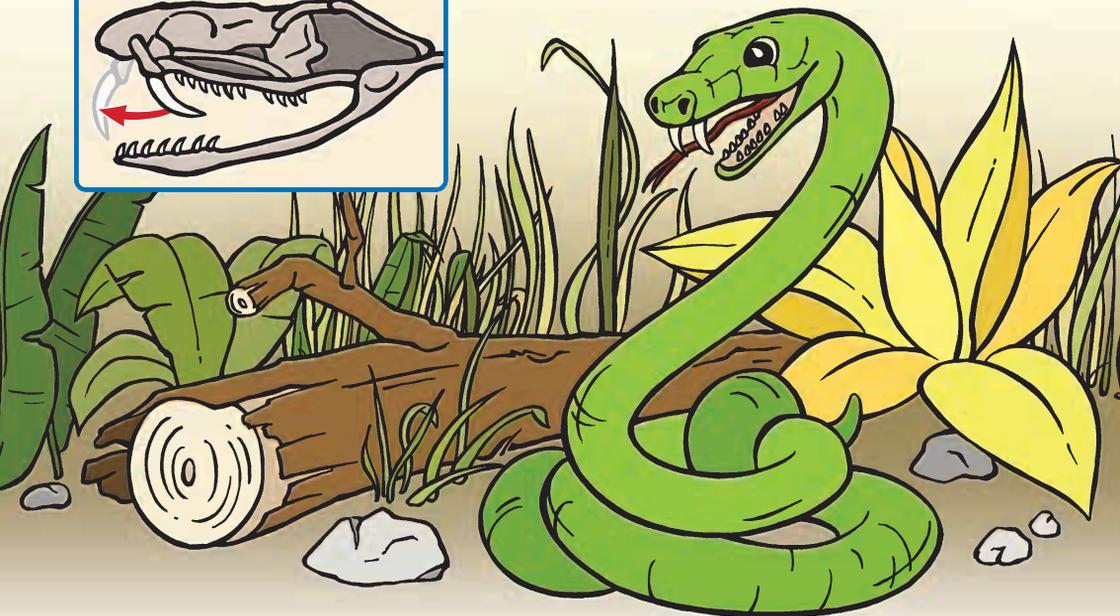
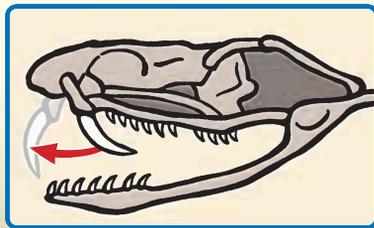
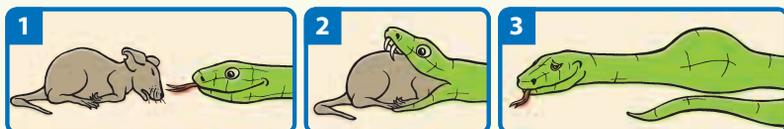


Eddy the Elephant

Eddy the Elephant's tusks are like the side incisors in people. Of course, elephant tusks are much more majestic. They are long, pointy and strong. Eddy uses them to dig up tasty roots and fight other elephants, when he has to.



Besides tusks, elephants also have molars. In the course of an elephant's life, his molars move from the back of his mouth to the front. This is called "horizontal exchange". The smallest elephant molar is as big as a thumbnail. The biggest elephant teeth can be as big as a brick and weigh up to 10 pounds!

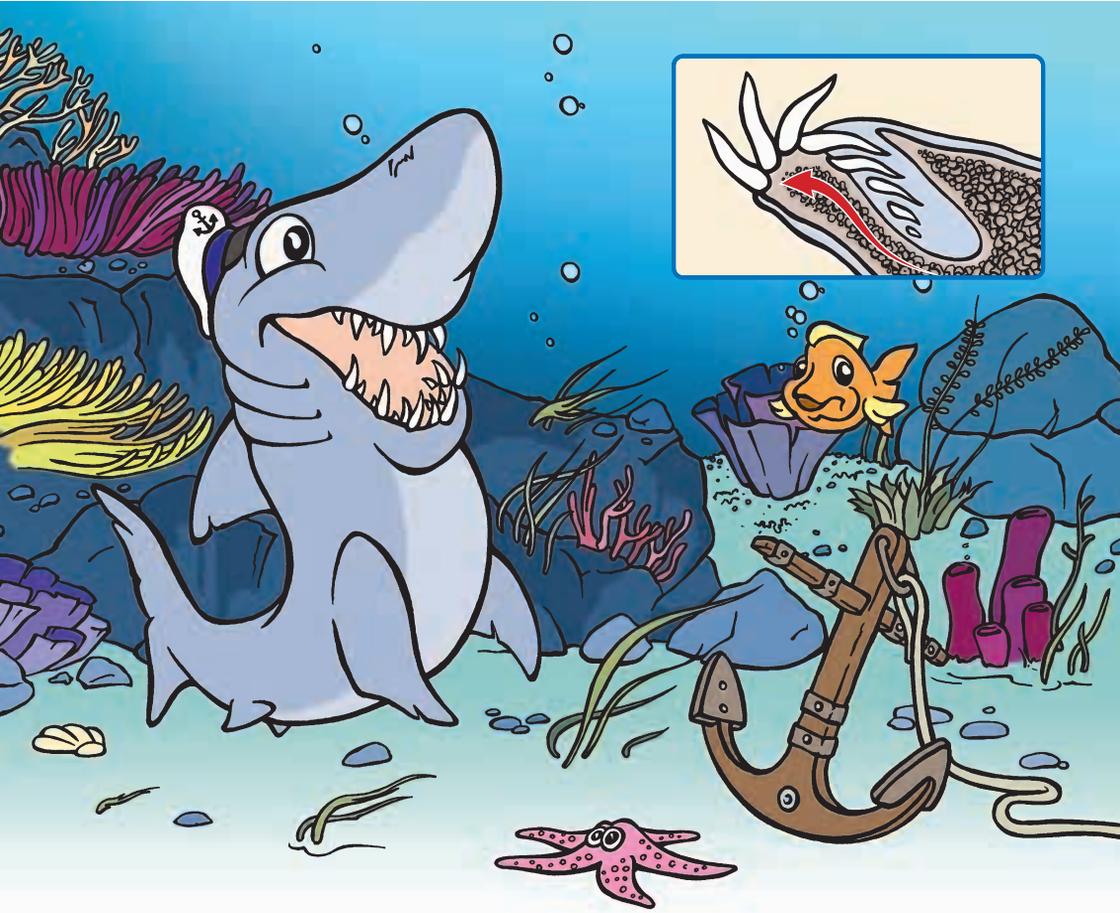


Suzy the Snake

Suzy the Snake has two poisonous teeth that she uses to quickly bite her prey before she eats. She does this so that her “dinner” doesn’t run away or even kick her when it is inside her stomach. Suzy’s poisonous teeth have little tubes. When she bites, poison flows through the tubes as fast as toothpaste when you squeeze the tube! Suzy’s teeth fold back when she closes her mouth. That way they won’t bother her while she’s sleeping or slithering.



Snakes don't have any normal teeth to chew food with. They have to swallow everything whole. They have movable joints in their jaws so that their mouths are really flexible. That way even very large prey can pass through the tiny mouth of a snake.

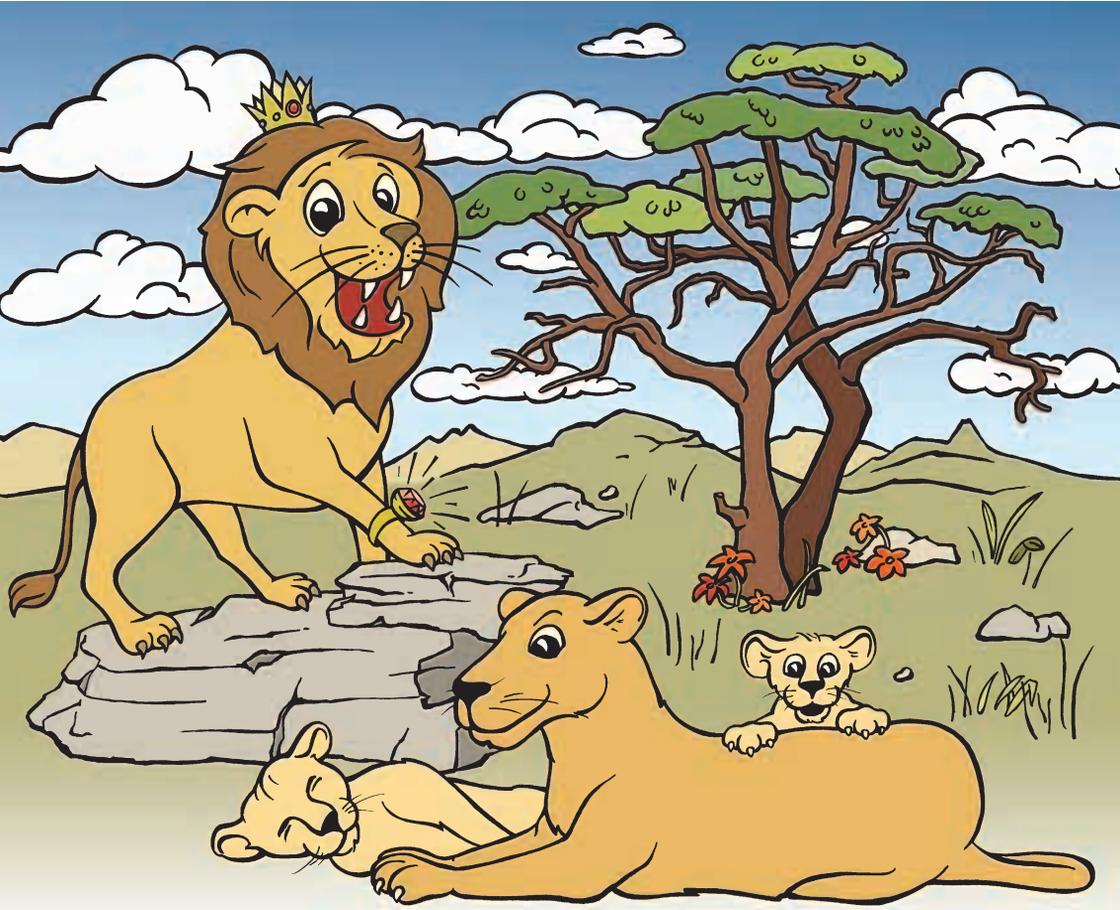


Sean the Shark

Sean the Shark has a “revolver bite”. He can’t shoot with it, of course. We just call it “revolver bite” because sharks have one row of teeth after another. When one tooth is lost, a tooth from the next row grows into its place – just like after a revolver is fired, the next bullet automatically takes the old one’s place.



Sean’s teeth look like razor sharp triangles and are perfect for holding onto his slippery prey. The teeth are not anchored directly in the jawbone but grow out of a very tough skin. This skin moves the new teeth outwards to the edge of the jaw like the conveyor belt at a grocery store.



Leo the Lion

When Leo the Lion yawns or growls, you see them right away: massive, razor sharp teeth. With these teeth, he can attack prey bigger and stronger than he is. Sometimes it only takes one targeted bite of those giant teeth to take care of his prey.



A lion's molars are not big and wide like ours. They are small, sharp and jagged. That way "The King of the Wild" can not only rip meat from his prey, but also grind up big bones – like with a pair of powerful shears!



Sammy the Sea Lion

Like the name says: Sammy the sea lion is related to the lion. You can see that he's a predator particularly by his oversized canine teeth. Sammy's teeth are quite a bit smaller than the lions though. But that makes sense: his prey is only little fish.



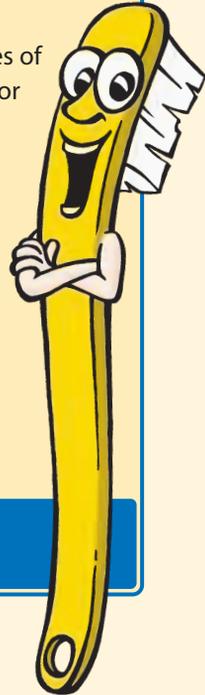
Even though sea lions in the zoo can perform some tricks, they can't use their fins to brush their teeth. But then they don't eat any candy and they don't drink cola or juice like we do. Even so, a little tooth-brushing wouldn't hurt – sea lions get pretty terrible bad breath from eating all those raw fish.

The 5 golden rules of healthy teeth

People eat different things than animals. That's why our teeth look different from the beaver's or the sea lion's. But we have to take care of our teeth every day if we want them to stay healthy.

That's why we have the 5 golden rules:

- 1 Teeth need to be clean all over** and have to be cleaned well after every meal. It's best if you first brush your teeth yourself and then get help from mom or dad. There will probably be a few places you missed like, for example, the first molars way in the back of your mouth.
- 2 The spaces between your teeth** must also be cleaned since little pieces of food often get stuck there. That's why we have floss. Have your parents or older brothers and sisters show you how it works.
- 3 A sensible and varied diet** is the foundation of healthy teeth. Sticky, sugary food like cake and chocolate really stay stuck in the teeth and damage them.
- 4 A healthy drink for kids** (and adults) is water. Cola, ice-tea, lemonade and fruit juices have a lot of sugar and are bad for the teeth. The less of these drinks you drink the better!
- 5 Twice a year** a dentist should examine your teeth. He or she will help you keep your teeth healthy.



And don't forget: There is a "golden rule" for parents as well. Brushing teeth together with mom and dad is even more fun.

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