

# For Creative Minds

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This For Creative Minds educational section contains activities to engage children in learning while making it fun at the same time. The activities build on the underlying subjects introduced in the story. While older children may be able to do these activities on their own, we encourage adults to work with the young children in their lives. Even if the adults have long forgotten or never learned this information, they can still work through the activities and be experts in their children's eyes! Exposure to these concepts at a young age helps to build a strong foundation for easier comprehension later in life. This section may be photocopied or printed from our website by the owner of this book for educational, non-commercial uses. Cross-curricular teaching activities for use at home or in the classroom, interactive quizzes, and more are available online. Go to [www.ArbordalePublishing.com](http://www.ArbordalePublishing.com) and click on the book's cover to explore all the links.

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## Mouths: Other Uses

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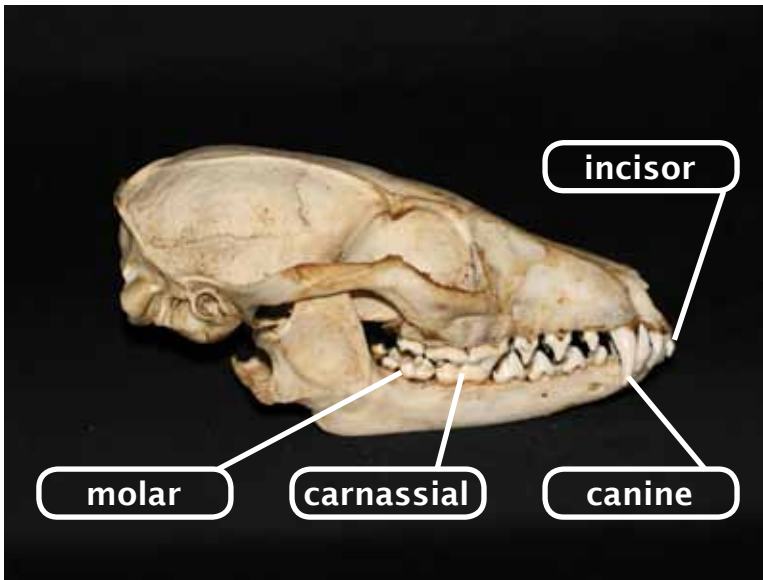
Animal mouths are not just for eating! Animals use their mouths to communicate with other animals, to camouflage themselves, to yawn, to carry things, or to clean themselves.



# Mammal Teeth

A mammal's teeth can tell you what kind of food it eats. This is because teeth have different shapes for eating different foods.

Herbivores have teeth shaped for cutting and chewing plants (incisors and molars). Carnivores have teeth shaped for tearing and slicing meat (canines and carnassial teeth). Omnivores, like this red fox, can have many different kinds of teeth located at different places in their jaw.



Can you match the photo of the skull to the animal?



red squirrel



coyote



raccoon

Answers: 1-raccoon, 2-red squirrel, 3-coyote

# Bird Beaks

Just as mammals' teeth give us clues as to what the mammals eat, the shapes and sizes of birds' beaks tell us what they eat too. Read the descriptions for clues to match the beaks to the bird's prey. Answers are below.



Common loons have long, pointed beaks for grasping slippery prey they find in the water.



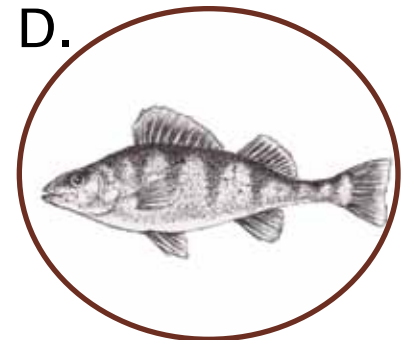
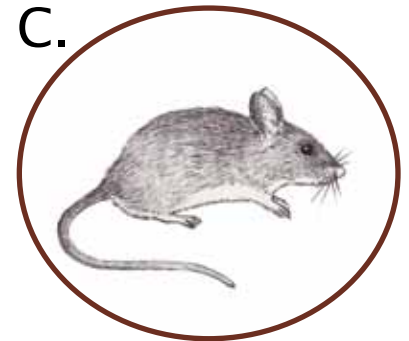
American kestrels have strong, curved beaks that they use to tear up their prey into smaller pieces.



A ruby-throated hummingbird's long beak can fit into narrow places where they often get a sweet drink of nectar.



Brown creepers have thin, curved beaks that are good for fitting under loose bark where they look for insects to eat.



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# Glossary

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**bird**



**insect**



**mammal**

beak	a protruding, horny jaw of an animal
bird	an animal with feathers
canine	a long, pointed tooth (sometimes called a fang in mammals)
carnassial	a large tooth found in many carnivores that is adapted for cutting food
fang	a long, pointed tooth that injects venom
groom	to clean and arrange fur or feathers
incisor	a tooth in the front of the jaw that has a sharp edge for cutting food
inject	to force a liquid into something
insect	a small animal with three body sections, six legs, two antennae and no backbone (spine)
jaw	the bones that form the structure of the mouth and often hold teeth. The lower jaw (mandible) moves, allowing the animal to open and close its mouth. The upper jaw (maxilla) is part of the skull and does not move.
mammal	a warm-blooded animal with a spine, fur, and the ability to produce milk
molar	a large, flat tooth in the back of the jaw that is used for grinding food
mouth	the opening in the body through which an animal takes in food
preen	to smooth, clean or apply oil to feathers
proboscis	a hollow tube-like mouthpart that some insects use to suck or to pierce and suck
skull	the bones in the head that surround and protect the brain