Terrifying Teeth!
What did dinosaurs eat?

Student Introduction

- ✓ You will search in the sand box for fossil teeth.
- ✓ You will identify which creatures the teeth came from.
- ✓ You can use the fossil teeth to find out what prehistoric creatures ate.

Background

- ► Scientists use a key to identify which creature fossil teeth came from.
- ► Scientists can predict the diet of the different prehistoric animals and dinosaurs from their teeth.
- ► When you have found some fossil teeth you can use the worksheet to find out which creature they came from.
- ► If you can correctly identify which creature they came from, you will be able to keep 3 of the teeth!

STEP 1 Searching for Fossil Teeth

Search through the sand in the boxes for fossil teeth. These boxes contain 50 million year old fossil teeth from Morocco in North Africa.

STEP 2 Whose Teeth are These?

- ✓ Use the key on page 2 to work out which creature your fossil teeth came from.
- ✓ Tell the staff which fossil teeth you found.
- ✓ Choose the ones you would like to keep.

Student name: _____

Has it got a sharp point?

YES

NO

Has it got a root?

YES

Is the point long and thin?

YES

Odontasips tooth

NO

Lamna tooth

Has it got lines on the top?

YES

Ray fish tooth

NO

Pycnodont fish tooth

STEP 3 — What did dinosaurs eat?

The shape of tooth depends on the food eaten.
Lions have sharp teeth to tear their meat.

Cows have lots of flat teeth to chew grass.
The incisors (front teeth) have a sharp edge and bite the grass.

If you find a skull with lots of molars you would know the animal was a herbivore.

Slicing teeth to tear large fish.

Grinding teeth with ridges to crush smooth shells.

Flat teeth to crush shells.

Piercing teeth to cut into small fish.