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Origin of our teeth dates back 400 million years

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Researchers say they have discovered how humans got teeth. The researchers are from Uppsala University in Sweden. They say that human teeth "first evolved 400 million vears ago". Thev believe our teeth came from an ancient fish called

acanthothoracid. The researchers studied a fossil of the fish. It was difficult to study because the fish is encased in rock. The researchers had to use the strongest X-ray machine in the world to analyse it. They used the X-ray machine to "digitally dissect" the fish. The researchers discovered that the fish's teeth were amazingly similar to human teeth. The researchers also said humans and 60,000 species of jawed vertebrates living on Earth today come from this fish.

The researchers say the acanthothoracid was one of the earliest jawed vertebrates with teeth ever to live. They were very excited at seeing how similar its teeth were to ours. A co-author of the study, Professor Per Ahlberg, said: "These findings change our whole understanding of the origin of teeth." He commented on the similarity to the fish, saying: "Their jawbones resemble those of bony fish and seem to be directly ancestral to our own. When you grin at the bathroom mirror in the morning, the teeth that grin back at you can trace their origins right back to the first jawed vertebrates." Another researcher said: "Nobody expected to find teeth so deep on the evolutionary tree."

Sources: dailymail.co.uk / inverse.com / earth.com

Writing

It is important to have shiny, white, straight teeth. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

researchers / humans / teeth / ancient / fish / fossil / rock / X-ray / machine / Earth / vertebrates / jaw / study / understanding / similarity / bathroom / mirror / origins

True / False

- Researchers from a university in Norway researched teeth. T / F
- b) Our teeth came from an ancient fish. T / F
- The researchers used the world's strongest Xray machine. T / F
- d) The article said there are 60,000 species of fish living on Earth. T / F
- e) A fish called an *acanthothoracid* is the oldest fish ever to live. T / F
- f) Researchers were excited about the findings of their research. T / F
- g) Researchers recommended looking in the mirror at your teeth. T / F
- h) A researcher said they found a tree with teeth. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1	discovered	

a. examine

2. evolved

b. beginning

3. ancient

c. developed

4. analyse

d. thrilled

5. species

e. thought

6. excited

f. found

7. findings

g. smile

8. origin

h. type

9. grin

i. of long ago

10. expected

i. conclusion

Discussion - Student A

- a) What do you think of teeth?
- b) What are the functions of teeth?
- c) What do you think of your teeth?
- d) What do you do to look after your teeth?
- e) How did our teeth come from an ancient fish?
- f) How would you like to improve your teeth?
- g) Why do people study fossils?
- h) Would you like to study fossils?

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Phrase Match

- 1. they have discovered how
- 2. teeth first evolved
- 3. the strongest X-ray
- 4. amazingly similar
- 5. 60,000 species
- 6. one of the earliest jawed vertebrates
- 7. A co-author
- 8. When you grin
- 9. you can trace
- 10. so deep on the evolutionary

Discussion - Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How important are teeth?
- c) What would you like to know about teeth?
- d) What problems do people have with their teeth?
- e) How often do you grin in front of the mirror?
- f) Do you think our teeth should be sharper?
- g) What do you think of false teeth?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Spelling

- 1. they have <u>ecordveids</u> how humans got teeth
- 2. first <u>dlevveo</u> 400 million years ago
- 3. our teeth came from an <u>ceiatnn</u> fish
- 4. researchers studied a <u>fslosi</u> of the fish
- 5. used the X-ray machine to <u>altiidlyg</u> dissect the fish
- 6. 60,000 species of jawed <u>rttbvareese</u>
- 7. They were very dicxete
- 8. the nrioig of teeth
- 9. commented on the imslayiirt to the fish
- 10. Their jawbones smeeblre those of bony fish
- 11. you can trace their iogirsn
- 12. deep on the yevolouairtn tree

Answers - Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. i	4. a	5. h
6. d	7. j	8. b	9. g	10. e

- a. of the study
- b. machine in the world
- c. tree
- d. humans got teeth
- e. their origins
- f. to human teeth
- g. with teeth
- h. of jawed vertebrates
- at the bathroom mirror
- j. 400 million years ago

Role Play

Role A - Goldfish

You think goldfish are the best fish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fish. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): salmon, piranha or sharks.

Role B - Salmon

You think salmon are the best fish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fish. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): goldfish, piranha or sharks.

Role C - Piranha

You think piranha are the best fish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fish. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): salmon, goldfish or sharks.

Role D - Shark

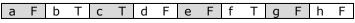
You think sharks are the best fish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fish. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): salmon, piranha or goldfish.

Speaking - Fish

- Goldfish
- Clownfish
- Carp
- Salmon

- Piranha
- Swordfish
- Shark
- Eel

Answers – True False



Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.