

# Breaking News English.com

Origin of our teeth dates back 400 million years – 12th July, 2020

## Level 0

Researchers have found how humans got teeth. They say teeth came from an ancient fish 400 million years ago. They used the strongest X-ray machine in the world to study a fossil of the fish. The fish was inside rock. Researchers found that the fish's teeth were very similar to human teeth.

The fish was one of the earliest with teeth. A researcher said its jawbone is very similar to ours. He said: "When you grin at the bathroom mirror in the morning, the teeth that grin back at you can [follow] their origins right back to [that fish]." Another researcher was surprised to "find teeth so deep on the evolutionary tree".

## Level 1

Researchers from Sweden have found how humans got teeth. They say human teeth "first evolved 400 million years ago" from an ancient fish. They studied a fossil of the fish. It was difficult to study because the fish is inside rock. They used the strongest X-ray machine in the world to look at the fish. They found that the fish's teeth were very similar to human teeth. Humans and 60,000 species of vertebrates on Earth today come from this fish.

The fish was one of the earliest jawed vertebrates with teeth. A researcher said: "[Our] findings change our whole understanding of the origin of teeth." He said: "Their jawbones...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 [follow] their origins right back to [that fish]." Another researcher said: "Nobody expected to find teeth so deep on the evolutionary tree."

## Level 2

Researchers have discovered how humans got teeth. The researchers are from Sweden. They say that human teeth "first evolved 400 million years ago". They believe our teeth came from an ancient fish. They studied a fossil of the fish. It was difficult to study because the fish is inside rock. They had to use the strongest X-ray machine in the world to "digitally dissect" the fish. The researchers found that the fish's teeth were very similar to human teeth. They also said humans and 60,000 species of vertebrates with jaws living on Earth today come from this fish.

The researchers say the fish was one of the earliest jawed vertebrates with teeth. They were excited at how similar its teeth were to ours. A co-author of the study said: "These findings change our whole understanding of the origin of teeth." He said: "Their jawbones...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 [that fish]." Another researcher said: "Nobody expected to find teeth so deep on the evolutionary tree."

## Level 3

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 years ago". They believe our teeth came from an ancient fish called an *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."