

Objective: To count how many teeth we have and learn that there are different kinds of teeth.

You Will Need:

- Large paper tooth for brainstorming words (cut out of paper)
- Small tooth-shaped paper (1/4th of 8-1/2 X 11 sheet) for writing
- One of the following books: *The Real Tooth Fairy / Franklin and the Tooth Fairy / How Many Teeth* or another book addressing tooth development and losing first teeth (see Dental Days Reading List for more ideas)

Procedure:

- 1) Read the selected book.
- 2) Ask students to think of three things that teeth do. (Example: *Teeth are important for speaking, eating, talking and smiling.*)
- 3) Brainstorm words students may want to use when writing about losing teeth. These could be written on a large paper tooth.
- 4) Students can write about their experiences with losing teeth on tooth-shaped paper. If some students have not lost a tooth yet, they could write about what they think it will be like when they lose their first tooth.

Assignment:

Tell three facts about teeth.



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You Will Need:

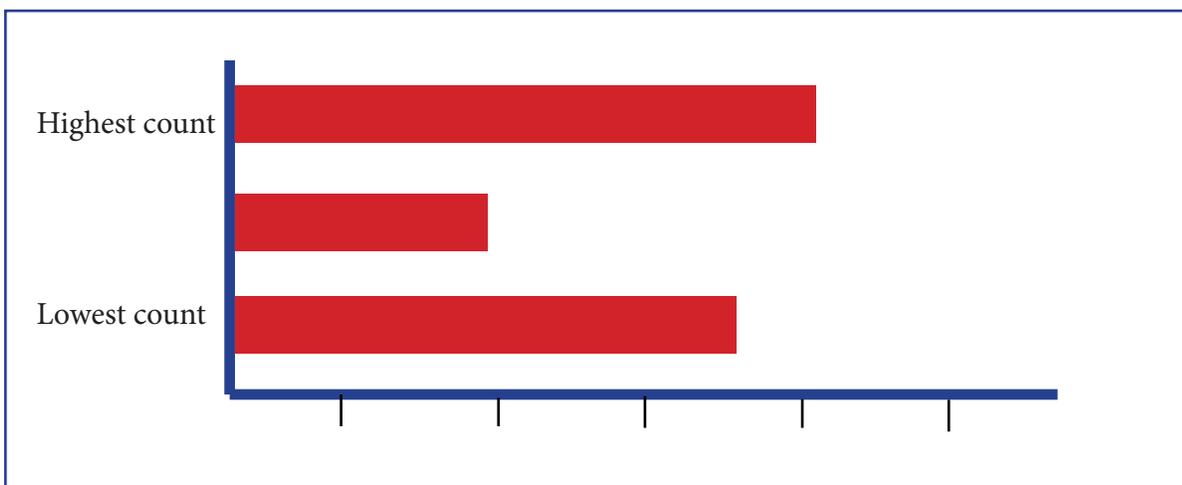
- Hand sanitizer or access to a sink
- Handheld mirrors for each student
- Printout: [Mouth Mirror](#)
- Pencils or pens
- Pink/red color pencils or crayons
- A hat, container, etc. to collect “teeth counts”
- A chalkboard, overhead projector or whiteboard
- Multi-colored writing utensils for the above medium

Procedure:

- 1) Explain that you will be studying teeth today and the different jobs teeth have when it comes to eating.
- 2) Have the students get into small groups.
- 3) Assist students with sanitizing their hands (explain why: to prevent the transfer of germs from hands to their mouths).
- 4) Pass out handheld mirrors and the Mouth Mirror printout to each student.
- 5) Instruct students to count their own teeth using the hand-held mirror and write down their observations by their names (incisors, canines, premolars, molars) but note that they will not have premolars at this age.
- 6) Ask students to draw their mouths with their teeth showing as if they are smiling.
- 7) Tell the students to write down the number of teeth they have on a piece of paper and collect them in a hat, container or another item to keep the answers anonymous.
- 8) Tell students to look at their teeth with the mirror again and write down observations answering:
 - What do the teeth you can see look like?
 - Which teeth are for biting and tearing food? (incisors, canines)
 - Which ones grind up the food? (premolars, molars)

COUNTING TEETH

- 9) Write the numbers of teeth, so that the students can see (on chalkboard etc.), while they complete the above step. Put tally marks next to repeated numbers, e.g:
- Number of students who have 17 teeth: III
 - Number of students who have 18 teeth: IIII
 - Number of students who have 19 teeth: IIII IIII
 - Number of students who have 20 teeth: III
 - Number of students who have 21 teeth: II
- 10) Go over the numbers of teeth you wrote down for the class.
- 11) Create a bar graph (see below) while you answer the following questions with the class:
- What is the lowest number of teeth?
 - How many students have the lowest number of teeth?
 - What is the highest number of teeth?
 - How many students have the highest number of teeth?



MOUTH MIRROR

NAME: _____

