

Teacher Supplement for Mammal Teeth and Skulls - Adaptations and Identification

The supplements and materials referred to in this lesson plan can be found in the Natural History Equipment Footlocker and include the Skull Box, the interactive CD, and the Publication. If you do not have access to the footlocker and you would like copies of the interactive CD or the publication, please contact Stephanie D. Stocks at sstocks@clermson.edu.

If you are interested in putting together your own skull set or looking for more resources, contact Skulls Unlimited at <http://www.skullsunlimited.com/>.

HELPFUL HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS:

- Some of the teeth in the skulls may have fallen out so remind the students of the principle of bilateral symmetry when they are counting the teeth to determine the tooth formula.
- When determining if the eyes are forward facing or not, it is best to view to skull head on.
- There is an answer sheet to handout #1 (CD handout). The worksheet in conjunction with the CD is designed to last for 45 to 55 minutes.
- The CD is meant to support the lesson plan which means that it assumes that the student already has the necessary background information provided in the lesson plan.
- The natural history implications made based on the teeth and skull discussed in this lesson plan are inferences. If you would like to expand this lesson, you can have the students search the library, internet, etc. to see if the inferences they made regarding the animal's natural history are indeed correct. You may also refer to the SC LIFE Publication: Natural History and Identification of Fourteen Common Terrestrial Mammals Found in South Carolina for this information.
- You can have the students calculate their own tooth formula, keeping in mind that not all students will have the same tooth formula based on that students age (i.e. molars come in at different ages and some people may have had their last molars removed).

- The measurements of the skulls are based on the longest and widest points (see picture below).

