Teeth and Bite Marks

Making a copy of the shape of your teeth

1. Starting with the two halves of the Styrofoam cup, remove the bottom piece from each half.

2. Place the two pieces of cup, with the smooth sides facing out, in your mouth between your teeth. Make sure the pieces go as far into your mouth as possible – you may need to trim a little of the cup around the edges to allow them to fit comfortably.

3. Bite down hard on the pieces of the cup – hard enough to leave a clear impression, but not cut through.

4. Remove the pieces of cup from your mouth. Rinse off the cups at the sink and then dry them off. Once dry, label the top piece "upper" and the bottom piece "lower".

5. Position a piece of white paper in a landscape orientation on your table. Staple the pieces labeled upper and lower onto the paper. Write your name on the sheet of paper.

Observations and Analysis

1. List the FOUR different types of teeth, the number of baby teeth, the number of adult teeth and their function. Arranging it in a table might help with organization.

type of tooth	number of baby teeth	number of adult teeth	function of this type

2. What are TWO things you can tell about someone from examining their teeth?

   Now working with your teeth:

3. Sketch the general pattern of your teeth – pay attention to the curve of your mouth, the spacing of your teeth and their alignment. Do this for both your upper and lower jaws.

4. On your sketch (of each jaw)
   a. label each of your teeth (just on the right or left side)
   b. list any teeth that are missing – only if they didn't make it on the cup but are in your mouth
   c. measure the distance between your last teeth on the impression
   d. measure the distance between your canines

   Comparing bite marks
5. Examine the bite marks of 5 classmates. List their names and mention one way that their bite marks are different from yours and one way that they are the same. Again, a table might help in your organization

classmate	similarity with mine	difference with mine