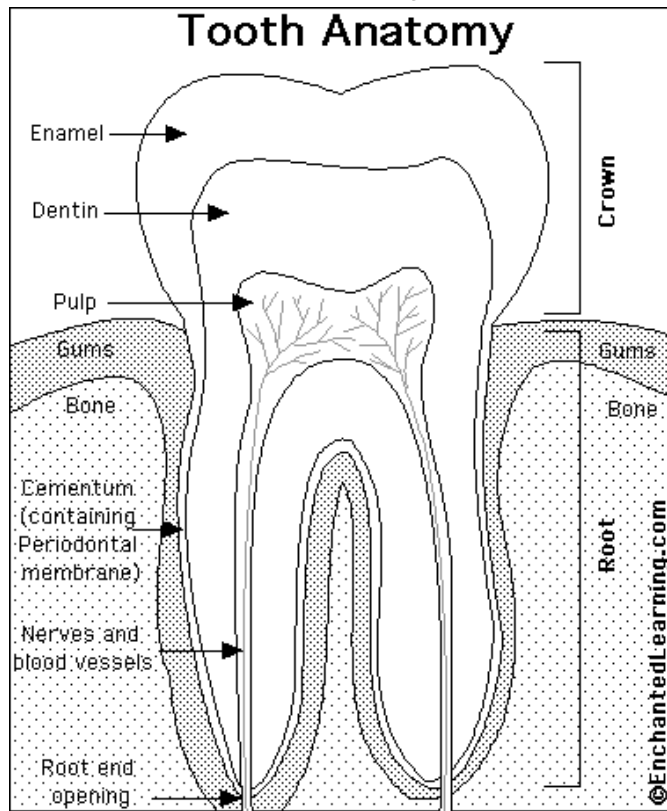


Tooth Anatomy



Humans have two sets of teeth, the baby teeth (also called the primary teeth) and the permanent teeth. Children have 20 primary teeth; they are replaced by the permanent teeth by about age 13. Adults have 32 permanent teeth.

Tooth Glossary:

Cementum - a layer of tough, yellowish, bone-like tissue that covers the root of a tooth. It helps hold the tooth in the socket. The cementum contains the periodontal membrane.

Crown - the visible part of a tooth.

Dentin - the hard but porous tissue located under both the enamel and cementum of the tooth. Dentin is harder than bone.

Enamel - the tough, shiny, white outer surface of the tooth.

Gums - the soft tissue that surrounds the base of the teeth.

Nerves - nerves transmit signals (conveying messages like hot, cold, or pain) to and from the brain.

Periodontal membrane/ligament - the fleshy tissue between tooth and the tooth socket; it holds the tooth in place. The fibers of the periodontal membrane are embedded within the cementum.

Pulp - the soft center of the tooth. The pulp contains blood vessels and nerves; it nourishes the dentin.

Root - the anchor of a tooth that extends into the jawbone. The number of roots ranges from one to four.