

# Horses Are Complicated: Teeth Part One

## Where are their teeth?

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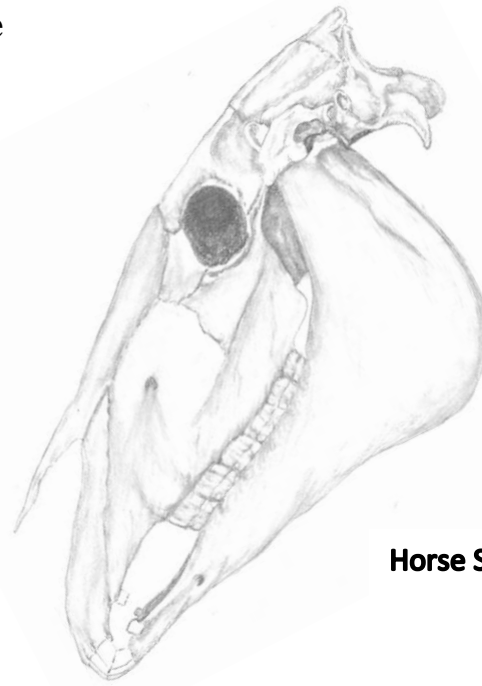
Do you know where your favorite horse's teeth are located?

We don't see horse teeth very often, and when we do, the front teeth are usually the ones we see. But horses have a lot of teeth, as many as forty-four.

So, where are they?

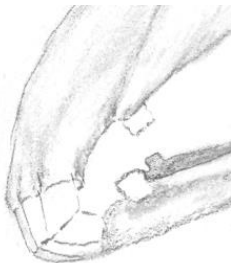
The front ones we can easily see, are called **incisors** and there are twelve of them, six on the top and six on the bottom.

Next, there is a space that doesn't have any teeth. Those tiny teeth right behind the incisors are called **canines**. All male horses have canines and mares do too.



Horse Skull

Incisors & canines



Molars



But first, look at the long rows of teeth that go along the jawbone. Those are **molars**. Did you know that the last molar is way back below the horse's eye? That dark circle on the drawing of the skull is the eye socket.

Can you see why the molars are sometimes called cheek teeth?

All those teeth! Each kind of tooth is designed to perform a specialized function. Next time we'll look at how horses eat.



Location of last molar