Why don't animals brush their teeth?

Mila Kirsten - 2nd Grade - Mrs Fleming's class

Abstract

I wanted to find out why animals don't brush their teeth. On the internet and from vets I found a lot of information that explained that animals don't need to brush their teeth. They clean them by chewing their food and chewing bark, sticks, bones and grass. Also some animals do not live long enough to get bad teeth. Other animals get more sets of teeth, some even once every two weeks.

Question

Why don't animals brush their teeth?

Hypothesis

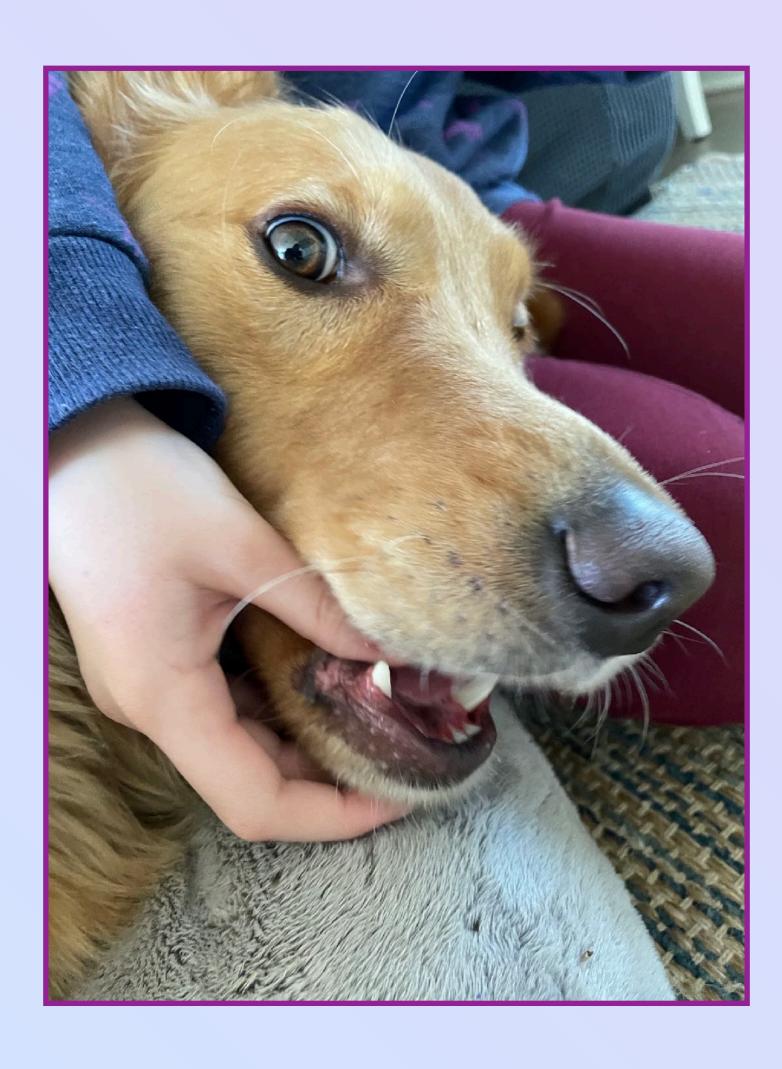
I think they don't brush their teeth, because animals don't have anything to brush their teeth with.

Procedures/Research

I did research on the internet and I checked books and asked our dog's vet.

I read pages on websites and information I found on google.com. Also I found information on websites of vets or animal hospitals.

I could not do an experiment. I wanted to make animal toothpaste, but I found out they do not need tooth paste.



Results

A lot of animals chew on stuff like bark, grass, and other kind of stuff. But sharks do it differently some of the sharks even grow new sets of teeth once every two weeks.

Great white sharks get new teeth about every 100 days. The new teeth grow behind the old teeth.

Chewing their food, cleans their teeth at the same time. Also they chew on sticks, barks, bones, and grass to help clean their teeth after a nice meal.

Animals have much shorter lives so before their teeth get bad, they already died.

Some animals grow more that one set of teeth during their life.

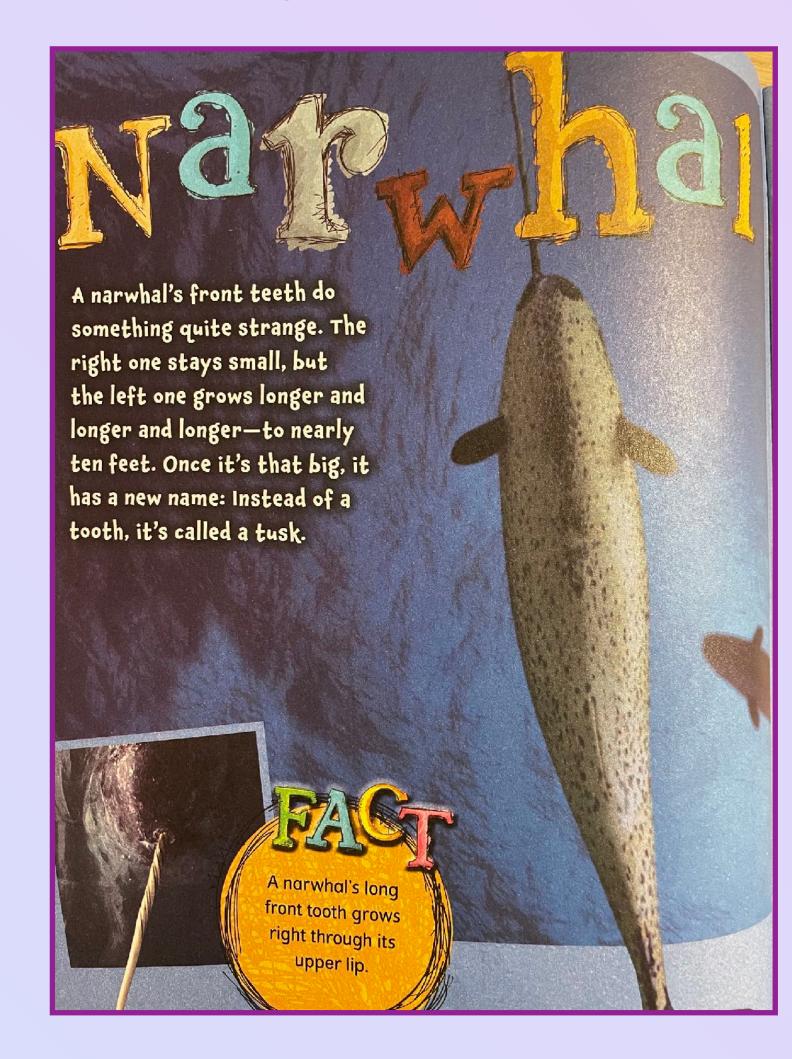
Animals like wolves and wild cats and dogs gnaw on bones of their kills and this way they clean their teeth. Also the diet helps the animals, they eat a lot of fiber that is good for your teeth. They also don't eat sweets, so they don't get cavities from that.

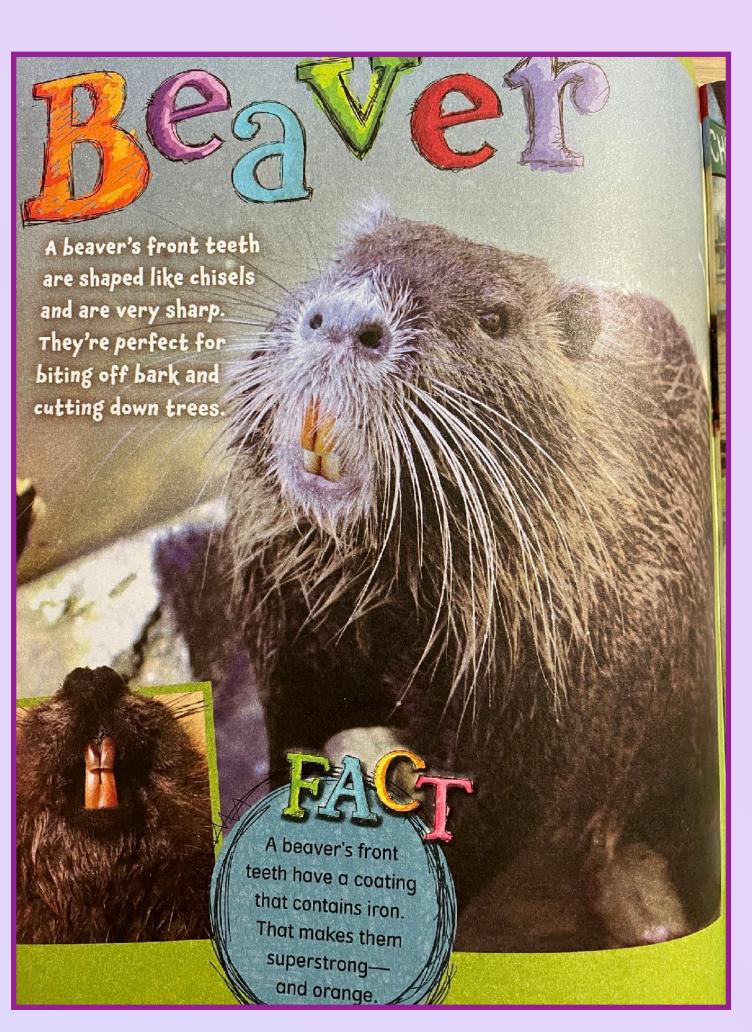
Beavers even have iron around their teeth that makes the teeth super strong. Turtles even rinse their mouth after eating with water.

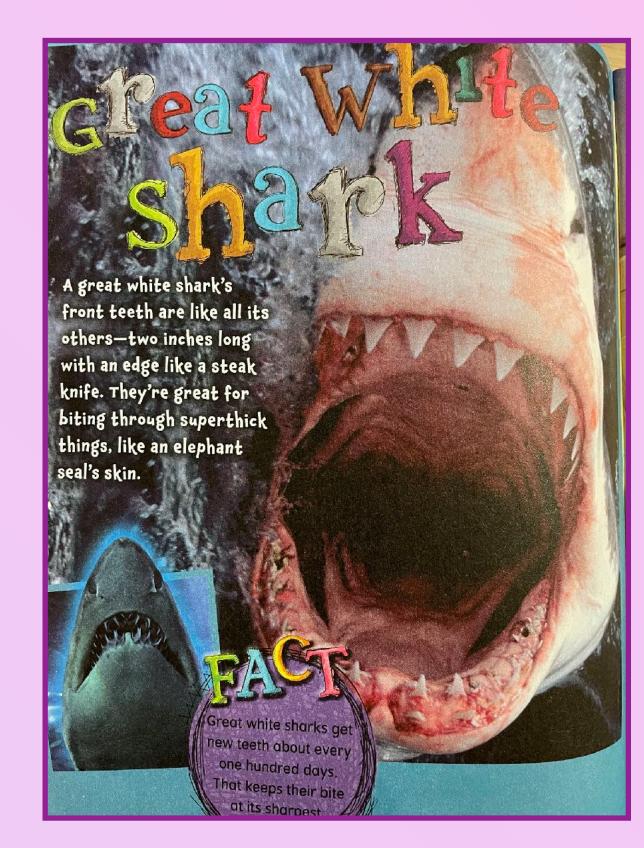
An animal like the naked mole rat has teeth that never stop growing. He bites hard roots and that keeps his teeth getting too long.

A vampire bat has no hard teeth, so when he eats the edges goes off quickly and stay sharp. A hippopotamus has big teeth. The upper teeth grind against the lower teeth and that keeps them clean and white.

Crocodile can't clean their teeth. They just open their mouth and small birds clean them. They are plovers. They pick the food of the crocodile teeth.









Conclusion

Animals don't need to brush their teeth because, they have other stuff that can help them clean their teeth without a tooth brush!

Like biting bones or sticks. Some don't live long enough to get bad teeth or get extra sets of teeth. Other have iron around their tooth that keeps them strong or the teeth grind and stay nice. Some animals even get help from other animals like the crocodile gets help from little birds.

References

- * 'What if you had animal teeth!?' By Sandra Markle
- * https://animalhow.com/animals-brush-teeth/
- * https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn22365zoologger-the-turtle-that-urinates-through-its-mouth/
- * https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/sharks/blog/a-sharks-infinite-regeneration-of-teeth/
- * http://www.mysantarosadentist.com/blog/2019/11/26/do-animals-practice-dental-care/
- * https://www.katoombadental.com.au/blog/animals-brush-teeth-humans/15274
- * https://www.parksidedentist.com/blog/animals-teeth-complications/