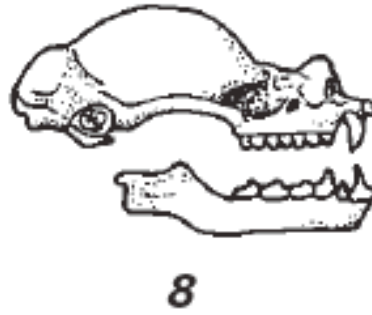
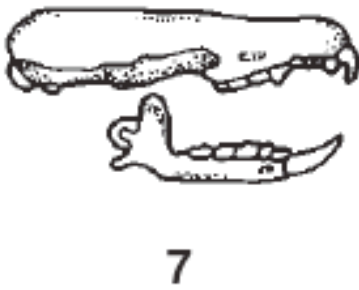
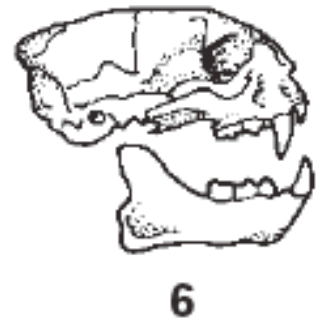
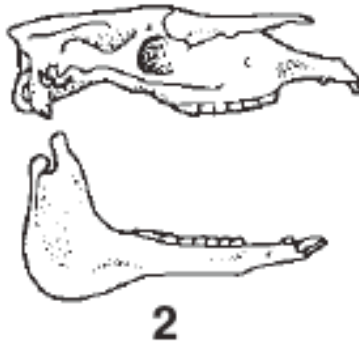


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Not drawn to scale

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Practice the Skill: Observing and Inferring

Directions: The diagram on the opposite side shows the skulls of nine different mammals. (The skulls are not drawn to scale.) Observe the diagram and then answer the questions that follow.

Write your answers IN COMPLETE SENTENCES on a separate sheet of paper.

1. A mammal's teeth are adapted to its diet. Some mammals eat only plants. Many of their teeth have flat surfaces that enable the animals to crush and grind the tough material in plant parts.

- **Which of the animals in the diagram have numerous flat teeth?**
- **What can you infer about their diet?**

2. Some mammals eat other animals. Many of their teeth have sharp points that pierce animal flesh and tear off sections to swallow.

- **Which of the animals in the diagram have numerous sharp teeth?**
- **What can you infer about their diet?**

3. Some mammals eat both animals and plants.

- **What inference can you make about their teeth?**
- **Which animals in the diagram do you think eat both animals and plants?**

4. You can make other inferences from the skulls of mammals. Look for shadowy indentations and bone shapes that indicate the position and size of the eyes.

- **Which mammals appear to have eyes side by side at the front of the head?**
- **Which mammals appear to have eyes on the sides of the head?**

5. Looking further: Mammals that capture other animals for food (predators) often have eyes at the front of the head. This position allows them to have excellent depth vision. Mammals that are hunted as food (prey) often have eyes on the sides of the head. These animals do not have depth vision, but they can see a larger area around them.

- **Make inferences about the advantages and disadvantages that each type of vision might provides.**
- **Based on the animals' teeth and eyes, which one of these mammals, if any, might hunt other animals for food?**

6. Extension: Create a data table to organize your observations about these animal's teeth and eyes.