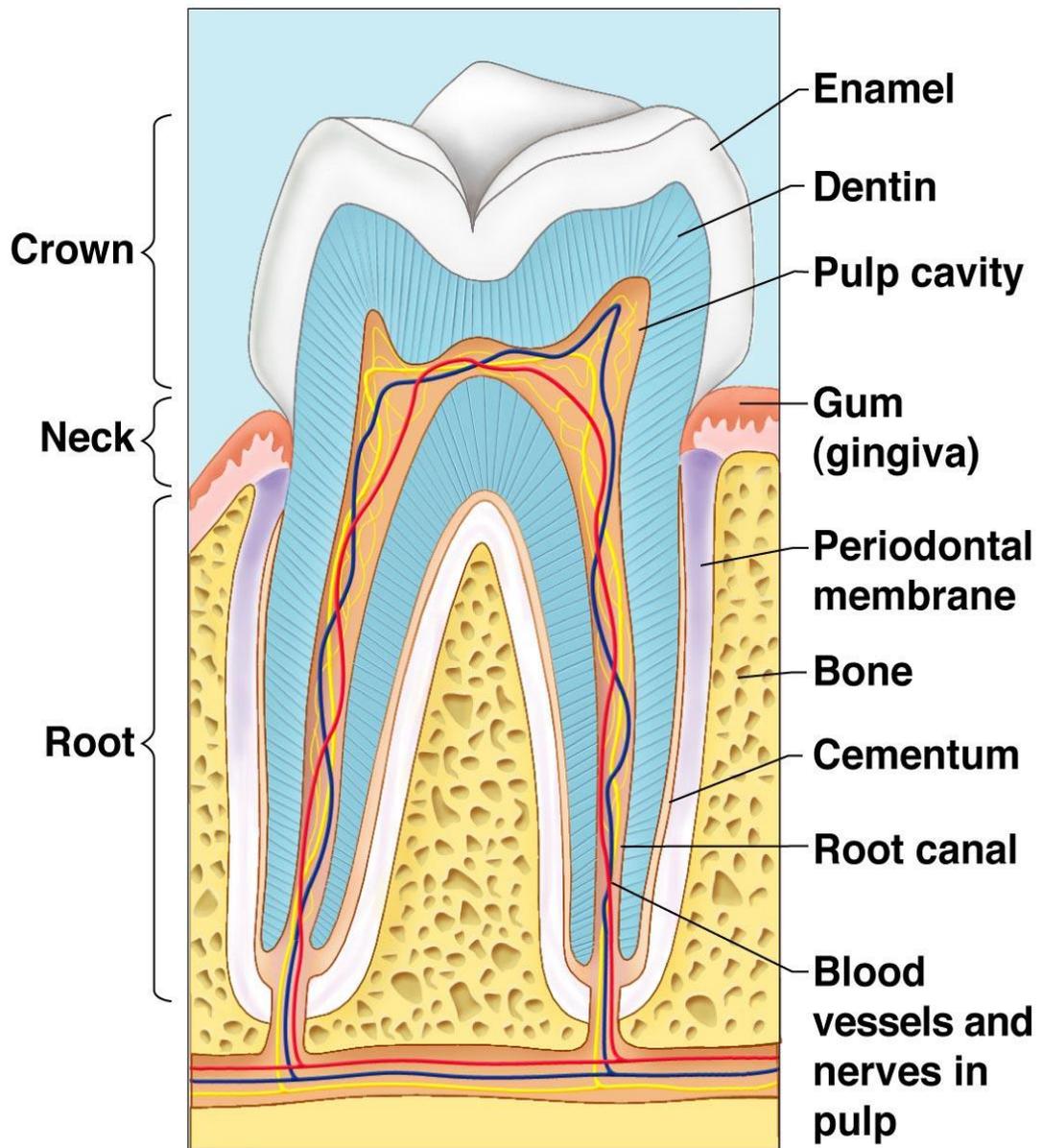


TEETH

Mastication, or chewing, is performed by the teeth.



Types of teeth

There are four types of teeth:

Incisors – blade-like teeth for clipping and cutting.

Cuspids (Canines) – conical with a pointed tip for tearing and slashing.

Bicuspid (Premolars) – have one or two roots and flattened crowns with prominent ridges for crushing, mashing and grinding.

Molars – have three or more roots and broader crowns with ridges for crushing and grinding.

Tooth Anatomy

The bulk of the tooth is formed by a bony substance called **dentin**. Cytoplasmic processes extend into the dentin from cells in the **pulp cavity**. Highly vascular connective tissue within the pulp cavity receives blood and sensation through blood vessels and nerves that enter the root at the **apical foramen** and travel through the **root canal**.

The tooth is anchored to the bony socket of the alveolar process by collagen fibers of the **periodontal ligament**. A bony substance called **cementum** covers the dentin of the root and the fibers of the periodontal ligament are anchored in cementum.

The **crown** is the visible portion of the tooth above the gingivae. The dentin of the crown is covered by **enamel**, the hardest material in the body. The **neck** is the boundary between the crown and the root.