

AMNH.ORG/OLOGY AMERICAN MUSEUM & NATURAL HISTORY

CAPYBARA



Lives in: South America

Living today These large rodents have ever-growing incisors. They use them to bite grass and plants. They can sometimes be found grazing alongside domestic cattle.

SABER-TOOTHED CAT



Lived in: North and South America

Extinct

These felines had ferocious knife-like teeth for killing and eating. They also used their massive teeth to display their dominance.

MANDRILL



Lives in: Western Africa

Living today

These large primates have big canines for display. But the silent flash of their canines isn't always intimidating. It can sometimes just mean "hello"!

BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN



Lives in: Coastal ocean waters worldwide *Living today* These marine mammals have cone-like teeth that all look the same. They're good for grabbing prey, like small fish and squid. But they're not good for chewing.

VIRGINIA OPOSSUM



Lives in: North and Central America

Living today

These marsupials have small, sharp incisors and larger canines. This species is famous for faking death, or "playing possum," when threatened.

DWARF MAMMOTH



Lived in: Channel Islands of California

Extinct

These wooly mammals had long incisor-tusks, like those of living elephants. This species measured just 4 to 6 feet (up to 1.8 meters) tall at the shoulder.

HORSE



Lives in: Domesticated throughout the world

Living today These herbivores do not have canines. They have high-crowned teeth that they use for grinding tough grasses.

THYLACOLEO



Lived in: Australia

Extinct

These meat-eating marsupials had huge incisors for biting. And they used their long, sharp premolars to slice flesh!

HIPPO



Lives in: Africa

Living today

These large, mostly plant-eating mammals have giant upper and lower canines. They use them to bite their opponents during fights! Their lower canines can weigh up to 7 pounds (3 kilograms).