

**DID YOU KNOW
TEETH CAN
TALK?**

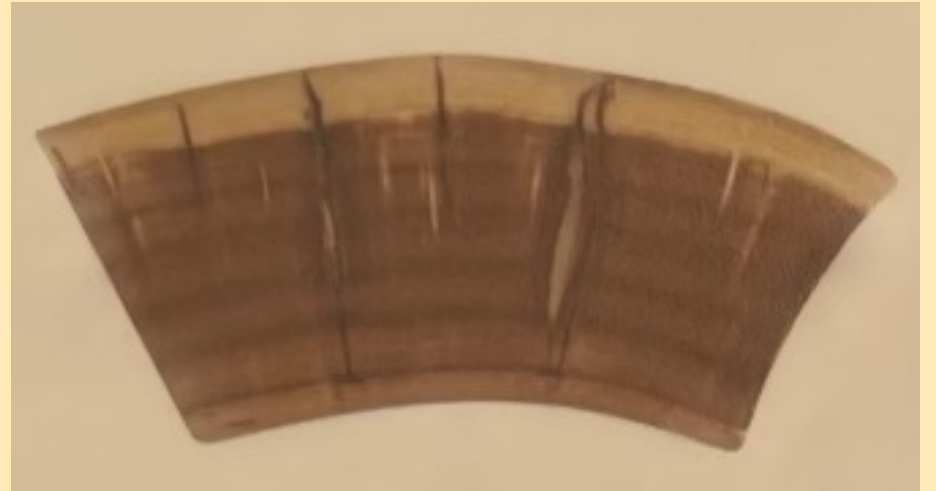
Photo Credit: The Noun Project

Not literally, of course, but they can tell us a lot about the animal they came from!

Photo Credit: UMMNH



Photo Credit: UMMNH



Those two huge teeth on the Bristle mammoth are called *tusks*! Mammoths' relatives the mastodons have them, too.

In a cross section of a tusk, we can see a pattern of lines like in the photo above. This mastodon's tusk grew in layers each year it was alive. This means that the lines in a tusk can tell scientists how old that mastodon was when it died!

The gaps between the lines can tell scientists how much the mastodon ate and grew each year! Large gaps mean that the mastodon grew a lot, and smaller gaps mean they grew less. This can help scientists figure out what the mastodon ate and when they became fully grown!

Now that you know teeth can talk, what do you think yours say?

