



Fact File

What is a tooth made of?

Each of our teeth has a hard white coat called **enamel**.

Below the gum, the root of the tooth has a covering. This is called the **cement**. It fixes the tooth to the jaw bone.

Underneath the enamel is **dentine**. It is not as hard as enamel.

In the centre of the tooth is the **pulp cavity**. This contains blood vessels and nerves. The blood brings food and oxygen to the living parts of the tooth. The nerves feel pain, especially when a tooth decays.

Gums are pink and cover the jaw bones. They protect the bone and help to stop teeth becoming wobbly and falling out.

If food is trapped on teeth, tiny living things called **bacteria** can feed on it. A thin layer of bacteria can form on teeth and gums. This is called **plaque**. Plaque can cause enamel to decay and then gums become diseased.

