



Dentistry Merit

1. Write a one-paragraph job description for each of these positions in dentistry:
 - a. Dentist
 - b. Dental hygienist
 - c. Dental assistant
 - d. Dental laboratory technician

2. Write a report of at least five hundred words on the history of dentistry.

3. Define the following parts of the human tooth structure. Then explain what body components fill the root canal opening in the tooth and pulpal chamber.
 - a. Crown
 - b. Root
 - c. Enamel
 - d. Dentin
 - e. Cementum
 - f. Periodontal membrane
 - g. Pulpal chamber

4. Ask your dentist for a copy of your dental chart and your most recent x rays. Learn how to identify cavities on an x ray. Label the different types of teeth. Write a brief description of each type of tooth and its purpose. Indicate the normal number of adult permanent teeth.

5. Describe the following conditions and explain their causes:
 - a. Dental caries
 - b. Periodontitis
 - c. Gingivitis
 - d. Temporomandibular joint dysfunction (TMD or TMJ)
 - e. Prophylaxis
 - f. Malocclusion

6. Explain why early intervention and correction are important for dental health. Include how the use of sealants and fluoride has reduced caries.

7. Keep a food diary of everything you eat and drink for three days. Include all meals, snacks, and drinks. Label any food or drink that may be harmful to your teeth because it contains sugar.

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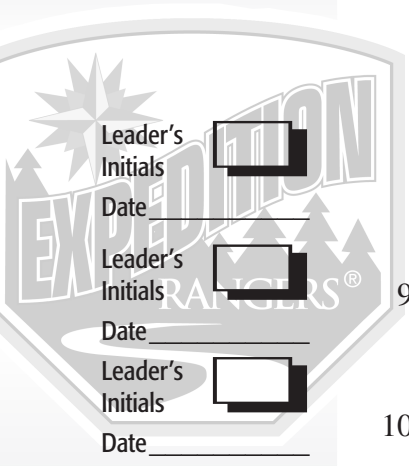
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8. Do any TWO of the following:
 - a. Make or obtain a model of the tooth structure in a human and demonstrate to a Rangers or school group the correct brushing and flossing procedure.
 - b. Make a poster with the theme "Prevention of Dental Disease." Use this poster while making a presentation to a school class or your Expedition Rangers group. This can be incorporated with the requirement above. Explain how teeth or the loss of teeth relate to the rest of the body, and how this would affect the body.
 - c. Draw a series of illustrations demonstrating the progression of tooth decay. Make a presentation to a school class or your Rangers group about the steps that can be made to reduce decay. Explain some of the techniques a dentist can use to repair or correct decay problems. List the types of dental filling materials available. Include your speech outline in your workbook.
9. Research to learn how three different foods or beverages affect the health of your teeth. Write a one-page report summarizing your findings.
10. Describe the training required to become a dentist or a dental hygienist.