



Rotten teeth

Background knowledge

When we chew food, some of it gets stuck between our teeth. Tiny living things in our mouths, called *bacteria*, attack this food and feed on it themselves. In fact, there are more bacteria in your mouth than there are people on our planet! The bacteria form large colonies on your teeth called *plaque*. As the bacteria feed, they produce acids, which cause decay. By cleaning your teeth after meals, the bits of food are brushed away so the bacteria cannot feed and produce acid.

Science activity

A group of school children were expecting to see the school dentist. Their teacher asked them to do a survey of how often they cleaned their teeth. The block graph below shows the results of their survey.



Which children are most likely to need treatment from the dentist?



Science investigation

① **Take extra care - ask an adult to supervise you.**

Ask an adult to help you use *disclosing tablets*, which allow you to see where there are bacteria on your teeth. Now design and conduct an experiment to find the best way to clean your teeth.

