Dental Dictionary

Instructions: Complete each fact using terms from the Word Bank.

1. To the sides of the incisors are the long, sharp ________________, two on the bottom and two on the top. The upper ones are sometimes called eyeteeth or cuspids.

2. The ________________ is the dangling fleshy object at the back of the mouth.

3. The membrane-covered roof of the mouth is called the ________________.

4. A hard yellow substance surrounding the pulp, ________________, makes up most of the tooth.

5. ________________ is plaque in a hardened form that is more damaging and difficult to remove.

6. Bad breath, or ________________, is caused by odor-producing bacteria that grow in the mouth.

7. ________________ get their name because, as the last teeth to erupt, they break through when a person is becoming an adult and is supposedly wiser.

8. Under the gum line, a bony layer of ________________ covers the outside of the root and holds the tooth in place within the jawbone.

9. The ________________ is the soft, innermost portion of the tooth. It’s made of connective tissue, nerves, and blood vessels, which nourish the tooth.

10. ________________ are located on either side of the uvula and look like twin pillars holding up the opening to the pharynx.
Instructions: Complete each fact using terms from the Word Bank on page 1.

11. Teeth are needed for ______________________ (a fancy way of saying chewing), the process by which we tear, cut, and grind food in preparation for swallowing.

12. ______________________, the first stage of gum disease, is usually caused by the accumulation of tartar.

13. When gingivitis isn’t treated, it can lead to ______________________, in which the gums loosen around the teeth and pockets of bacteria and pus form, sometimes damaging the supporting bone and causing tooth loss.

14. The hard palate divides the mouth from the nose above. The soft palate forms a curtain between the mouth and the throat (or ______________________) to the rear.

15. When bacteria and food particles settle on teeth, the bacteria digest the carbohydrates (sugars) in the food and produce acid, which dissolves the tooth’s enamel and causes a ______________________.

16. ______________________ forms when bacteria and food particles are allowed to settle on the teeth.

17. ______________________, the hardest tissue in the body, is the outermost layer covering the tooth.

18. The mouth is lined with ______________________, which produce mucus to keep it moist.

19. ______________________ secrete saliva, which moistens food and contains digestive enzymes that help break down food.

20. ______________________ are the squarish, sharp-edged teeth at the front and middle of the mouth. There are four on the bottom and four on the top.