

# #3

WE WERE SHED  
FROM A MARINE  
ANIMAL MANY  
MILLIONS OF  
YEARS AGO!

**Q:** What are we, and what animal  
did we come from?

We were dug from  
the side of a cliff  
many feet  
above the ocean.



**Q:** How did ocean animals get into  
a rock layer that is now above  
the ocean?

# ANSWER SHEET

## #3

### MYSTERY SAMPLE:

- A handful of fossil sharks' teeth
- Optional: A photograph of a cliff showing sedimentary layers exposed along a beach

### OBJECTIVE:

- To introduce fossil sharks' teeth
- To get the students thinking about how sharks' teeth become fossils.
- To show that there was once an ocean over what is now upraised land
- To introduce the concept of sea level change

### ANSWER:

- We are sharks' teeth.
- Marine animals were there because there was once an ocean covering the land
- The teeth fell into mud that was at the bottom of an ancient ocean. The ocean was above our heads, and covered land that now is dry. This means that either the land has risen, or sea level has fallen since the sharks teeth mud layer was deposited.

### TEACHING TECHNIQUES FOR 'STAFF MEETING':

- Ask the class what they are. Prompt for sharks' teeth. Ask where the teeth came from? Let the students conclude that they were shed from sharks swimming in an ancient ocean. Note for them that the teeth fell into mud which eventually turned into soft rock.

- Note for the students that the teeth were collected from a layer high on cliffs along the ocean and show them a picture ( if available) of cliffs along an ocean. Ask them how the teeth got up above the modern sea level. Remind them that the teeth were shed from sharks that lived in an ocean. To help get the point across: Stand next to a wall, pretend that the floor is at today's sea level, and then reach up and note that the sharks' teeth came from a layer above your head. Again ask how the ocean got up there above sea level today. The kids will soon 'discover' that either the land rose, or the ocean level went down.