

Trip to the Dentist's Office

OVERVIEW

The *Trip to the Dentist's Office* vignette covers: the areas in a dental office; job descriptions for members of the dental team – dentist, receptionist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, and dental laboratory technician; and basic information about common dental procedures.

EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS ADDRESSED

Trip to the Dentist's Office addresses these areas of the Sunshine State Standards for Health Education: health literacy; advocate and promote healthy living; and responsible health behavior.

PRE-K TO 2: understands positive health behaviors that enhance wellness; identifies common health problems of children and possible ways to prevent these problems; knows sources of health information (e.g., people, places, and products) and how to locate them; recognizes that decisions about personal behavior may be healthy or unhealthy; knows and practices good personal health habits; identifies safe and unsafe behaviors.

GRADES 3-5: knows how personal health behaviors influence individual well-being; knows the indicators of physical, mental, emotional and social health during childhood; knows the most common health problems of children; knows why health problems should be detected and treated early; knows how childhood injuries and illnesses can be prevented and treated; knows appropriate sources of information for making health-related decisions; knows the importance of assuming responsibility for personal health habits; uses strategies for improving or maintaining personal health.

OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

- 1) List the areas of the dental office.

Answer: reception area, X-ray room, dentist's office, dentist's and dental hygienist's operatories, dental laboratory.

- 2) Describe the members of the dental team and their roles.

Answer:

Dentist – a doctor who is trained to treat and prevent diseases of the mouth including the teeth, gums, lips, cheeks and jaw.

Dental hygienist – a person trained to clean plaque and stains from the teeth and tartar from around the gums using different tools, and who teaches correct brushing and flossing techniques.

Dental assistant – a person who helps the dentist when he or she is working in a person's mouth. The assistant also sterilizes and disinfects dental instruments and operatories.

Dental-laboratory technician – a person who makes dentures, crowns and bridges under the direction of the dentist.

Receptionist – the person who greets people when they arrive at the dental office, answers the telephone, makes appointments for the dentist and collects fees.

- 3) Explain the importance of a health history.

Answer: A health history can help the dentist know before starting any work on the patient if the person has any medical problems or allergies, or is taking any prescription drugs.

- 4) Describe the function and importance of X-rays.

Answer: X-rays help the dentist locate any hidden disease or decay that may not be found when doing an oral examination.

- 5) Describe disinfecting and sterilizing procedures.

*Answer: Dental instruments and equipment are sterilized or disinfected to make sure no germs spread from one person to another or from the patient to the dental-team members. Most dental instruments are sterilized in a miniature steam oven called an **autoclave**. The high heat in the autoclave kills all germs. Liquid cleaners are used to disinfect operatories where members of the dental-team work.*

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SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION

- 1) Use the supplemental materials in the *Introduction* section.
- 2) Set up a dental office for role-playing activities.
- 3) Draw a map of the dental office.

REVIEW GUIDE MATERIALS

- 1) Key Terms
- 2) Review Guide answers
- 3) Primary review
- 4) Intermediate review

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REVIEW GUIDE

KEY TERMS

- 1) **receptionist**
The receptionist is a person who greets you at the dentist's office.
- 2) **health history**
A health history is very important information about you. The dentist must know your history to take care of you properly.
- 3) **allergy**
An allergy is a reaction of the body to something it doesn't like. Allergies can cause rashes, swelling, sneezing or wheezing.
- 4) **dentist**
The dentist is the person who takes care of your teeth, gums and mouth.
- 5) **X-ray**
An X-ray is an image of the inside of your tooth.
- 6) **virus**
A virus is an ultramicroscopic infectious agent that can cause disease.
- 7) **disinfecting**
Disinfecting means making germs and bacteria harmless.
- 8) **sterilizing**
Sterilizing kills all bacteria, germs and viruses.
- 9) **autoclave**
An autoclave is an oven that sterilizes dental tools using heat.
- 10) **local anesthetics**
Local anesthetics numb your teeth and gums so that you don't feel anything during treatment.
- 11) **dental assistant**
A dental assistant helps dentists in their duties.
- 12) **dental hygienist**
A dental hygienist is a person who cleans the teeth and gums. The hygienist also shows you the best way to keep your teeth and gums healthy.
- 13) **dental-laboratory technician**
A dental-laboratory technician is a person who makes dentures, crowns and bridges.
- 14) **crown and bridges**
Crowns and bridges are used to strengthen or replace missing teeth.
- 15) **protective equipment (gloves, masks and protective glasses)**
Protective equipment is used to reduce the spread of disease.

PRIMARY REVIEW GUIDE ANSWERS

1. 1(C), 2(D), 3(E), 4(B), 5(A)
2. B,C,E and G

INTERMEDIATE REVIEW GUIDE ANSWERS

- 1) a) dental assistant
b) dental hygienist
c) dental-laboratory technician
d) receptionist
e) dentist
- 2) a,c,e,f
- 3) health history
- 4) a,c,d
- 5) b
- 6) autoclave

Trip to the Dentist's Office

1) Who does what at the dental office? Match the job in Column A with the right answer in Column B.

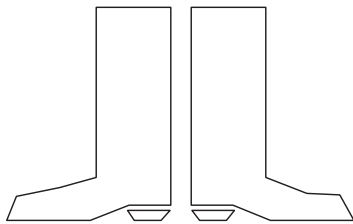
Column A

- 1. dental lab technician ____
- 2. receptionist ____
- 3. dentist ____
- 4. dental hygienist ____
- 5. dental assistant ____

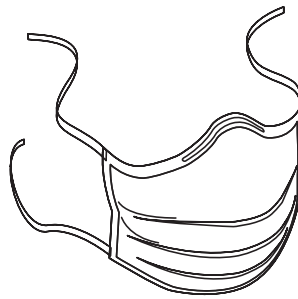
Column B

- A. Helps the dentist and sterilizes instruments
- B. Cleans plaque from teeth and gums
- C. Makes false teeth and crowns
- D. Greets people and answers the telephone
- E. The doctor who keeps your mouth healthy

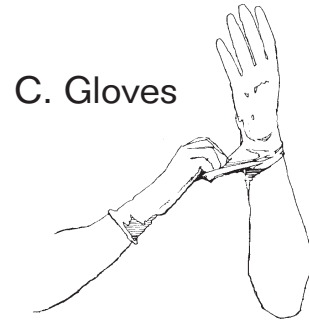
2) Circle each item that helps keep germs from spreading between the dental-team members and the patient.



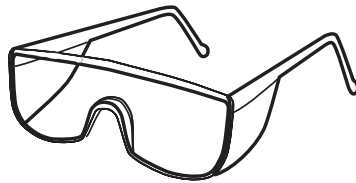
A. Rubber boots



B. Mask



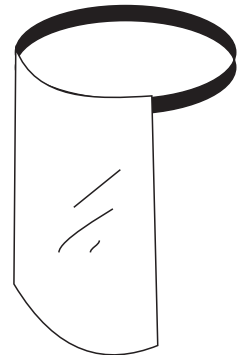
D. Umbrella



E. Glasses with side shields



F. Hat



G. Face shield

Name_____

- 3) Which job would you like to have in the dental office? Tell the reasons you would like that job.

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- 1) Fill in the blank with the name of the person who does that job:
 - a) The person who helps the dentist and sterilizes and disinfects instruments is the _____.
 - b) The person who cleans plaque from the teeth and gums is the _____.
 - c) The person who makes dentures, crowns and bridges is the _____.
 - d) The person who greets people and answers the telephone is the _____.
 - e) The person in charge of keeping your mouth healthy is the _____.
- 2) Which items does the dental-team use to prevent the spread of diseases in the office?
 - a) glasses b) raincoat c) masks d) hat e) gloves f) sterilizer/autoclave
- 3) For the dentist to treat patients properly, patients must fill out their _____.

(Hint: unscramble these words to find the answer – tehalt rsithoy)

- 4) The dentist can't see everything by just looking. That is why a dentist takes X-rays. Circle the things that an X-rays shows.
 - a) cavities between teeth
 - b) your lips
 - c) problems with the bone
 - d) hidden teeth such as wisdom teeth
 - e) the color of the teeth
- 5) To prevent a patient from feeling pain, the dentist gives an injection of:
 - a) water
 - b) local anesthetic
 - c) aspirin