

FISH

ID TIPS:

- Bones are lightweight with no spongy bone
- Woody texture, glossy and semi-translucent
- Flat and angular shape, lots of ridges and holes on one side then fairly flat on the other

FIN SPINES:



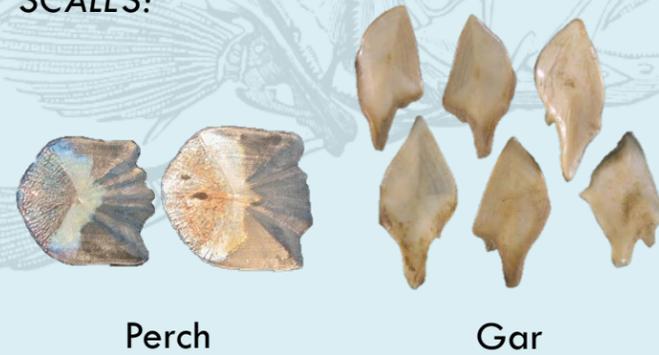
VERTEBRAE:

Fish vertebrae are generally spool shaped with ends that are concave, not flat like in mammals. Spines project off this central portion but often break off because they are so fragile

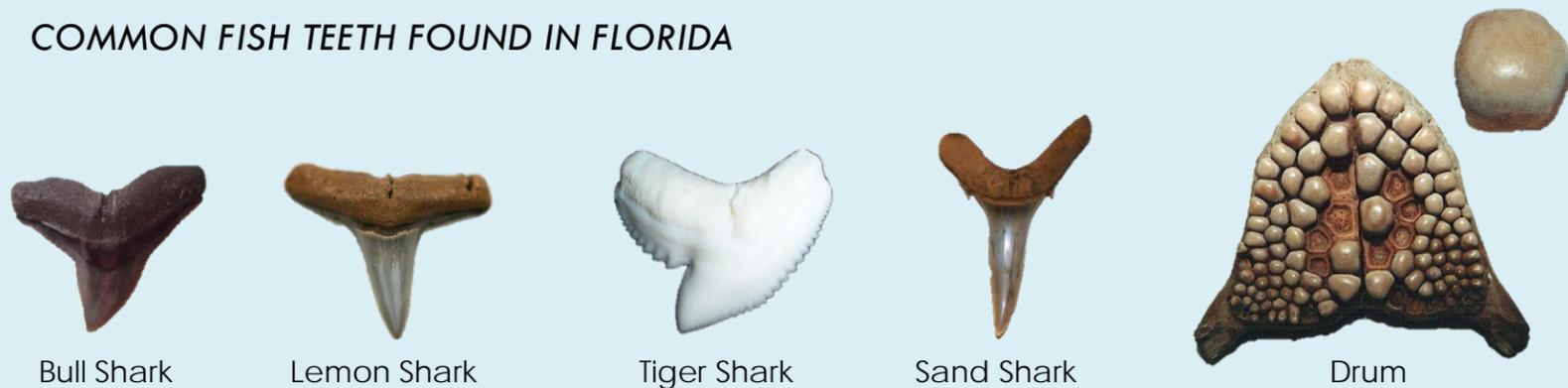


An example of various fish bones showing their delicate and sometimes translucent appearance.

SCALES:



COMMON FISH TEETH FOUND IN FLORIDA



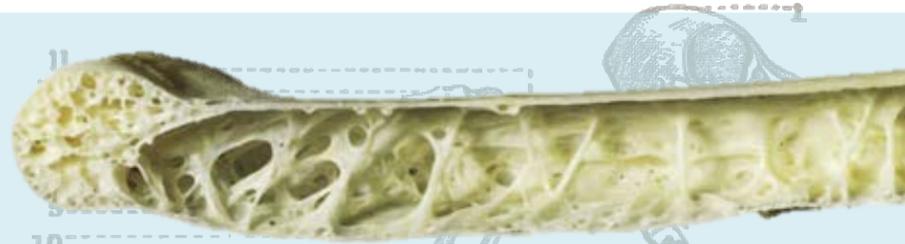
Saltwater Fish Otoliths



BIRDS

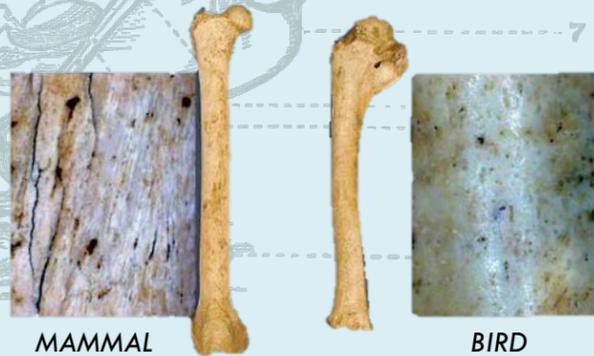
ID TIPS:

- Bones are lightweight with a thin cortex and thin support webs within
- Smooth texture, can be glossy but not translucent
- Angular shape on some long bone ends



This bird bone is cut in half to show the web of support filaments within. Hollow, light bones aid in flight.

Bird bones generally have a very smooth texture, unlike mammal bones which are more woody.



For more information about archaeology in your area go to:

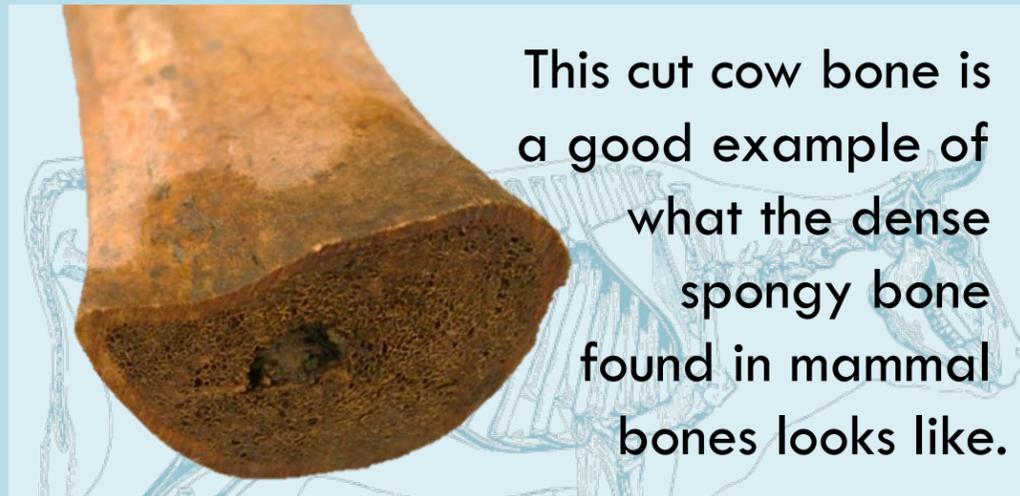
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MAMMALS

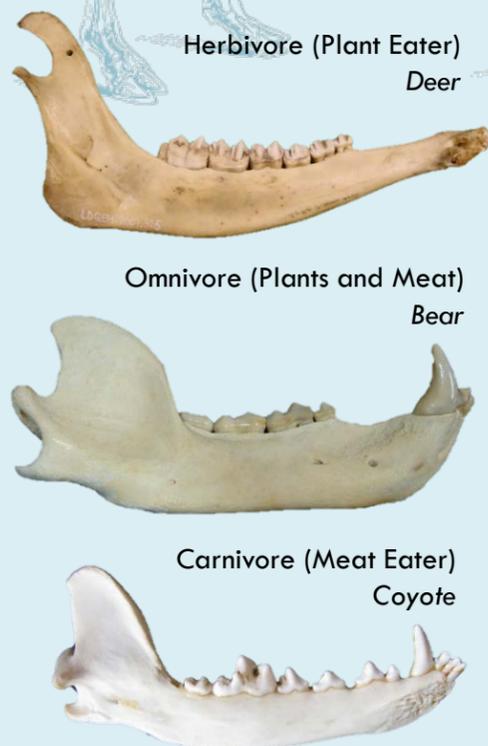
ID TIPS:

- Bones are heavy with a thick cortex and dense spongy bone at the ends
- Woody texture, not glossy or translucent
- Rounded shape, size can be helpful in ID of species



This cut cow bone is a good example of what the dense spongy bone found in mammal bones looks like.

TEETH:

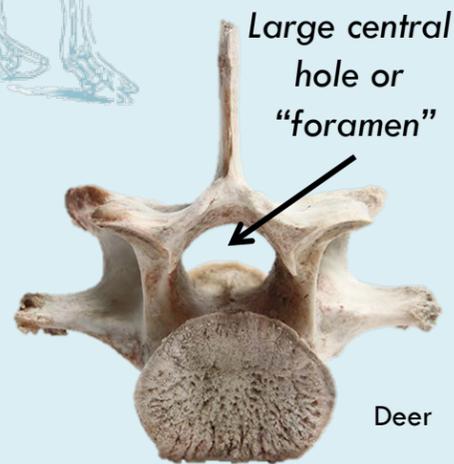


Herbivore (Plant Eater)
Deer

Omnivore (Plants and Meat)
Bear

Carnivore (Meat Eater)
Coyote

VERTEBRAE:



Deer

There are 5 general types: Cervical (neck), Thoracic (upper body), Lumbar (lower body), Sacral (pelvis), and Caudal (tail)

REPTILES

ID TIPS:

- Bones are of a medium weight with a medium cortex thickness, some spongy bone present
- Woody to smooth texture, not translucent
- Very rounded shape to ends of long bones



Snake Vertebrae

SNAKES:

Snakes are not lacking in backbone, some can have up to 400 vertebrae! No arms or legs means only a few bones to identify.

ALLIGATOR:

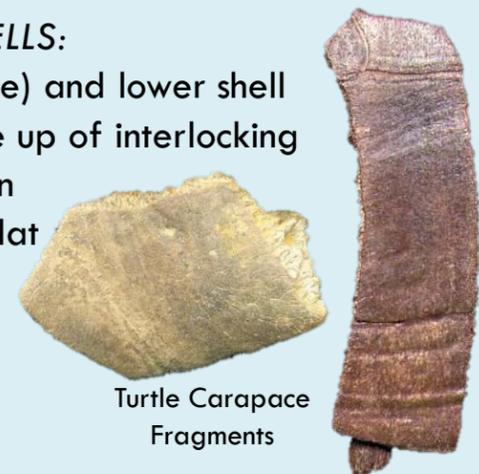
Alligator teeth are cone shaped and fairly easy to identify. Scutes are bony external plates or scales found under the skin of alligators and crocodiles that make the skin very hard to penetrate.



Above: Alligator Scute
Right: Alligator Tooth

TURTLE & TORTOISE SHELLS:

The upper shell (carapace) and lower shell (plastron) are both made up of interlocking plates. Look for a pattern of ridges on one of the flat sides as well as jagged edges where the plates would have come together to ID these bones.



Turtle Carapace
Fragments