

Skull Anatomy

Cranial Capacity (braincase size) – cranium minus the face; may or may not indicate the level of intelligence (Intelligence is determined by overall size of the organism, where it lives, and the level of brain development.)

Post-orbital Construction – the narrowing of the braincase behind the eye orbits; the orbit is the eye socket

Sagittal Crest – ridge on top of the cranium for attachment of chewing muscles; runs down the middle of the top of the head; seen in predators that chase and bring down prey

Forehead – frontal bone (A vertical forehead indicates an expanded frontal lobe, which is used for planning, reasoning, judgement, future consequences from current actions.)

Foramen Magnum – the opening in the base of the skull where the spinal cord enters (The location indicates whether an organism is bipedal or quadruped.)

Brow Ridge – bony ridge over the eye orbit (This reinforces weaker bones of the face due to strong chewing muscles.)

Facial Prognathism – forward projection of the jaws and teeth beyond the cheek bone (A less forward projection indicates a reduction in tooth size due to a change in diet and cooked food. Chin angle relates to this.)

Chin – slopes backward without a point or forward with a pointed end

Dental Arcade – shape of the teeth row when viewed from above (U-shaped or parabolic-shaped)

Teeth –

Incisors – for cutting

Canines – for tearing

Molars – for grinding

Canine Diastema – gap between the upper incisors and canines, and lower canines and premolars (the diastema is either present or absent to accommodate the canine from the opposite jaw)

