

Dentists

SOMETHING EXTRA

Dentists have been practicing for nearly 7,000 years, although you might not recognize some of the treatments used back then as dentistry. In ancient Babylon, for example, "dentists" used worms, prayers, and herbs to treat tooth decay. In the Middle Ages, dentists were considered the first surgeons—although about all they could do was remove teeth, which they did to treat nearly every condition you can think of.

On the Job

Dentists help people take care of their teeth. They remove teeth and straighten them with braces, repair broken teeth, and fill cavities. They may replace a patient's original teeth with a "bridge" of false teeth. They may also perform surgery to treat gum

disease. They teach people how to brush, floss, and care for their teeth to prevent problems. They wear masks, gloves, and safety glasses to protect themselves from infectious diseases. Many are self-employed.

Subjects to Study

Biology, anatomy, chemistry, physics, health, math, business courses

Education & Training

Professional degree



Earnings

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Job Outlook

Average increase



Discover More

The next time you visit your dentist—and before you have to open wide—ask him or her about the job. What kind of training is available in your area? What is the best part of the job? What's the worst? Is your dentist bothered that so many people are afraid of dentists?

Related Jobs

Chiropractors, optometrists, physicians and surgeons, podiatrists, psychologists, veterinarians