

Chapter 3 Questions

1. What are the advantages of studying teeth as opposed to bone to understand life history? (Hint: Consider how tooth and bone surfaces change over time.)
2. Bioarchaeologists study carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen, and strontium isotopes. What does each of these isotopes reflect in an individual's life history?
3. How is the consumption of maize reflected in isotopes? What values of carbon might be expected with the adoption of a maize-based diet? Provide one example.
4. How can marine versus terrestrial-based diets be distinguished using stable isotope analysis?
5. Choose one type of elemental analysis, and explain its use. Consider its potential in understanding health.