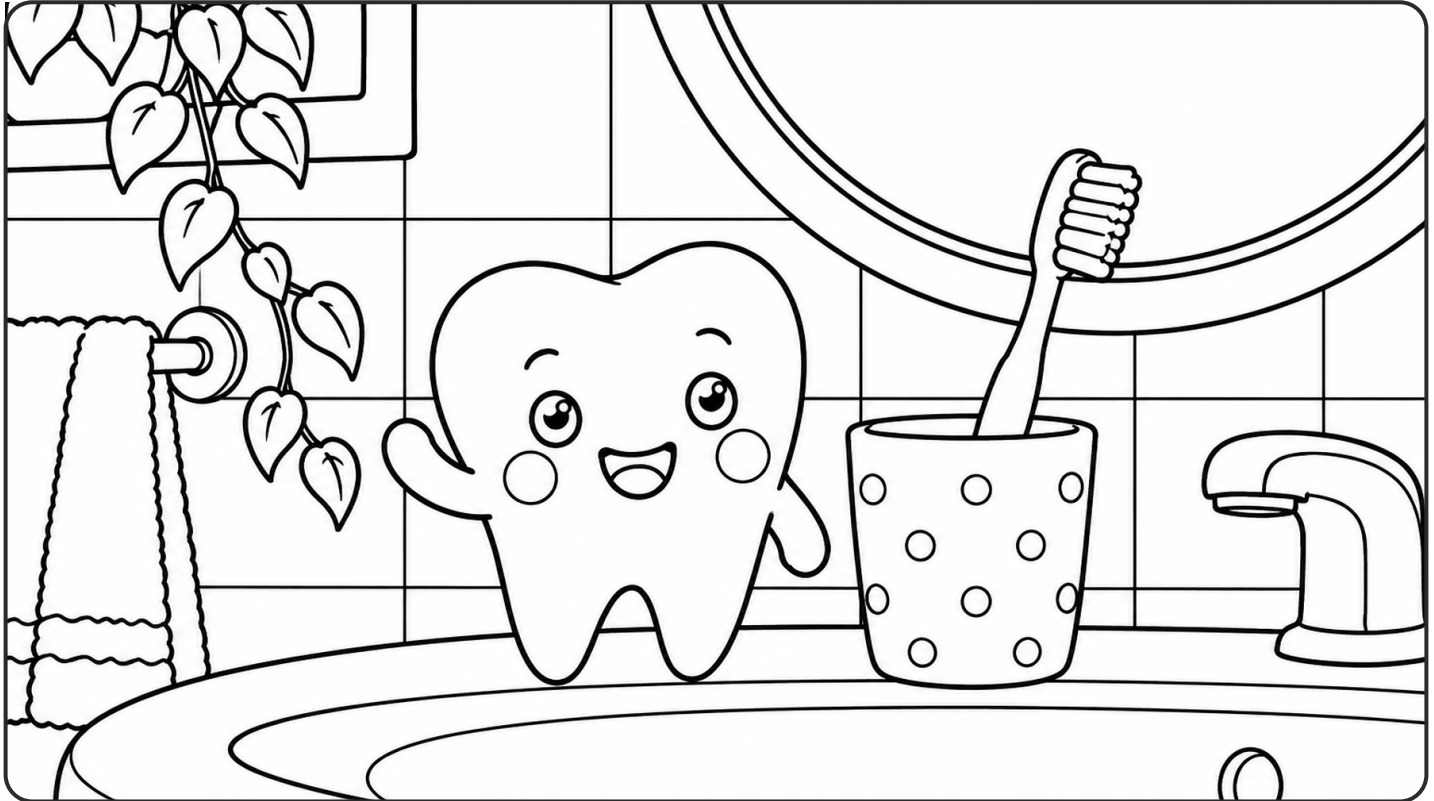


Why do my baby teeth fall out?



One day, a tooth starts to wiggle. A little later, it falls right out! Why do baby teeth fall out?



Why?

1. Your jaw keeps growing, but a tooth can't grow bigger.

By about three, you had twenty small baby teeth, just right for a little mouth. But once a tooth is made, it stays the same size. So your body has a clever plan, a second set of teeth, bigger and stronger.

2. The grown-up teeth are already there, hiding inside your jaw.

They sit right under the baby teeth, growing slowly for years.

3. Tiny helpers take the baby tooth's root apart.

The root is the part you cannot see. It holds the tooth tight, like the roots of a tree. When a grown-up tooth is ready to move up, tiny helpers take the baby tooth's root apart, bit by bit. With less root to hold it, the tooth gets loose. Wiggle, wiggle!

Try it! Count your teeth

You need: a mirror and a grown-up

1. Look in a mirror, open wide, and count your teeth.
2. Can you find a wobbly one, a gap, or a new tooth coming in?
3. Ask a grown-up if you can count theirs. Who has more?

What happened? A wobbly tooth or a gap means a bigger, stronger tooth is getting ready to take its place.

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/teeth



scan with a grown-up