

Anatomy & Physiology: Bones—Skull, Maxilla.

STRUCTURE.

- The pair of maxillae form the upper jawbone.
- The maxillae articulate with every facial bone except the lower jawbone, the mandible.
- Forms the floor of the orbits, part of the lateral and inferior nasal walls, and a large portion of the hard palate.

- Hard palate: bony roof of mouth. The palatine processes of the maxillae form most of the hard palate along with horizontal plates of the palatine bones (separate from the maxillae). The hard palate separates the nasal and oral cavities.

- Maxillary sinus empties into nasal cavity.
- Alveolar processes: ridge that contains the sockets (alveoli) for the upper teeth.
- Palatine processes: horizontal projection forming anterior of hard palate.
- Infraorbital foramen: passageway for facial nerve.
- Incisive foramen: allows passageway for nerve and blood vessels to the hard palate.
- Inferior orbital fissure: passageway for nerves and vessels to the face.

FUNCTION.

- Upper jaw bone helps to break down food when eating.

CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

References

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