

Digestion Detectives with Bea the Bee

Learning objective: To identify the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans.

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions using information from the text.

Bea the honeybee is busy learning about how humans turn their lunch into energy. Digestion begins in the mouth, where teeth break down food into smaller pieces. Saliva helps to soften the food, making it easier to swallow. Once swallowed, the food travels down a long tube called the oesophagus, heading straight for the stomach. Inside the stomach, the food is mixed with special juices that break it down into a thick, soupy liquid. This is an important step in extracting the energy we need to run, jump, and play. Next, the mixture moves into the intestines. This is where the body cleverly absorbs all the useful nutrients and water into the bloodstream. Anything the body cannot use is passed out as waste. Without this amazing process, we wouldn't have the fuel to power our busy days! Whether you are eating a healthy salad or a hearty stew, your body works hard behind the scenes to keep you healthy and strong.

Word bank: oesophagus · digestion · stomach · nutrients · intestines · saliva

1. Where does the process of digestion start in the human body? (2 marks)

2. What is the purpose of the intestines in the digestive system? (2 marks)

3. Why is it important for the stomach to mix food with special juices? (2 marks)

4. What might happen to a human if their oesophagus stopped working properly? (2 marks)

5. Why does the author describe the body as 'clever'? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the human digestive system. Label the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, and intestines clearly.



Extension challenge: Research what happens to the body if you do not drink enough water. Write three sentences explaining why water is important for our digestion.