

Digestive Detectives: The Journey of Food

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

Read each question carefully and use your scientific knowledge of the human digestive system to answer. Use the word bank to help you complete your sentences.

Max the monkey and Bea the honeybee are investigating how humans turn a delicious lunch into energy! Remember, digestion starts the moment food enters the mouth and continues until the body has absorbed what it needs.

Word bank: oesophagus · stomach · small intestine · large intestine · saliva · teeth · nutrients

1. Max is crunching on an apple. Explain the role of the teeth and saliva in the very first stage of digestion. (2 marks)

2. After swallowing, the food travels down a tube to reach the stomach. What is the name of this tube? (1 mark)

3. Describe what happens to the food once it reaches the stomach. Why is this part of the process important? (2 marks)

4. Bea wants to know where the body absorbs the useful nutrients from the food. Which part of the digestive system does this? (1 mark)

5. If the small intestine absorbs the nutrients, what is the main job of the large intestine? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a simple diagram of the human digestive system. Label the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, and large intestine.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a tiny piece of food. Write a short diary entry describing your exciting journey through the digestive system, starting from the mouth and ending at the large intestine!