

Nova's Digestive System Investigation

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

Nova the owl has been observing how humans eat to get energy for their daily adventures. Use the word bank to label the stages of the digestive process in the correct sequence (1-6). Then, use your knowledge to answer the deeper thinking questions below.

Word bank: Oesophagus · Mouth · Small intestine · Stomach · Large intestine · Rectum

1. 1. Sequence the digestive journey from start to finish using the word bank terms provided. Explain the role of the stomach in this process. (3 marks)

2. 2. Compare and contrast the functions of the small intestine and the large intestine. Why is the small intestine vital for our energy levels? (3 marks)

3. 3. Justify your answer: Why do we need to chew our food thoroughly in our mouths before it travels down the oesophagus? (2 marks)

4. 4. What might happen if the small intestine were unable to absorb nutrients from our food? (3 marks)

5. 5. Explain why the digestive system is considered an essential part of the human body's survival. (2 marks)

6. 6. Imagine a piece of toast enters the body. Describe its journey through the system using scientific vocabulary. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scientific diagram of the human digestive system. Clearly label the six stages mentioned in the word bank and draw arrows to show the path that food takes through the body.



Extension challenge: Research a 'balanced diet'. Create a menu for a healthy lunch that provides the body with the nutrients it needs. Justify your choice of ingredients by explaining how they benefit the body's digestive and energy-producing processes.