

Nova's Human Body Fact-File: The Digestive System

Learning objective: To identify and describe the functions of the basic parts of the human digestive system in humans.

Nova the owl is investigating how our bodies turn food into energy! Use your science knowledge to complete this fact-file. Write clearly and use scientific vocabulary to explain how each part of the digestive system plays its role in the process.

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

1. The Mouth and Teeth: Explain the role of teeth and saliva at the very beginning of the digestive process. (3 marks)

2. The Oesophagus: Describe the journey food takes after it has been swallowed. How does it reach the stomach? (2 marks)

3. The Stomach: Explain why the stomach is vital for digestion. What happens to food once it arrives here? (3 marks)

4. The Small Intestine: Justify why the small intestine is considered the most important part for absorbing energy for the body. (4 marks)

5. Compare and Contrast: Compare the roles of the small intestine and the large intestine. How do their functions differ? (4 marks)

6. Scientific Reasoning: What might happen to the human body if the digestive system could not absorb nutrients from food? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a tiny explorer travelling through the digestive system! Write a short diary entry describing your journey from the moment you enter the mouth to the final stage of the process. Use at least five scientific terms from the word bank to describe the environments you encounter.