

The Digestive Detective: A Journey Through the Human Body

Learning objective: To describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans and identify the types of teeth in humans and their simple functions.

Max the monkey has been busy eating his lunch, but he is confused about how his body turns his food into energy! Using the word bank provided, complete the digestive journey by sorting the steps into the correct order and then match the teeth types to their specific jobs. Use your reasoning skills to explain the importance of each step in the process.

Word bank: Oesophagus · Stomach · Small intestine · Incisors · Canines · Molars · Mouth · Large intestine

1. Max starts by chewing an apple. Which type of tooth is used to bite into the fruit, and which type of tooth is used to grind it down? Explain why we need both types. (3 marks)

2. Sequence the digestive process: Number the following organs from 1 (start) to 5 (end): [] Stomach, [] Mouth, [] Small intestine, [] Oesophagus, [] Large intestine. (2 marks)

3. What might happen to the digestive process if the small intestine did not absorb nutrients from our food? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the function of the stomach with the function of the large intestine. (3 marks)

5. If Max eats a meal that costs £4.50, explain why his body still needs to 'process' the nutrients from that meal rather than just storing the money. (2 marks)

6. Explain why it is important for humans to have different-shaped teeth rather than all teeth being the same shape. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the human digestive system. Label the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, and large intestine. Colour-code the parts that perform mechanical digestion (breaking food into smaller pieces) versus chemical digestion (using juices to break food down).



Extension challenge: Design a 'Digestive System Map' for an alien who has just arrived on Earth. Include a creative guide explaining how the alien should use their teeth and stomach to get energy from Earth-food, using scientific vocabulary like 'nutrients', 'digestion', and 'absorption'.