

Bea's Brilliant Digestion Journey

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

Read the passage below carefully, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Bea the honeybee is buzzing through the human body to learn how we get energy from our food. Digestion starts in the mouth, where teeth break food into smaller pieces. Saliva helps soften the food so it is easy to swallow. Once swallowed, the food travels down a long tube called the oesophagus, which acts like a slide leading straight to the stomach. Inside the stomach, the food is mixed with special juices that break it down further into a thick, soupy liquid. This is an important step because it prepares the food for the next stage. Next, the mixture moves into the small intestine. This is where the body absorbs all the useful nutrients and vitamins that help us grow strong and healthy. Finally, the remains pass into the large intestine, where water is removed before the waste leaves the body. Without this clever system, our bodies would not be able to turn our favourite snacks into the energy we need to run, play, and learn every single day.

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

1. What is the role of saliva during the first stage of digestion? (2 marks)

2. Which organ does the food travel through after it has been swallowed? (1 mark)

3. Why is it necessary for the stomach to turn food into a soupy liquid? (2 marks)

4. What might happen to a person if their small intestine stopped working correctly? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is more important for the stomach or the small intestine to do its job? Explain your choice. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of the human digestive system, showing the path food takes from the mouth to the intestines.



Extension challenge: Research what happens to the energy we gain from our food. Write a short paragraph explaining why humans need energy to function.