

The Incredible Journey: Nova's Digestive Discovery

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

Use the writing frame below to explain the journey of food through the human body. Use scientific vocabulary and clear, logical steps to ensure your explanation is accurate and easy to follow.

Nova the owl has been observing human biology and has discovered that our digestive system is an amazing, complex machine that transforms our lunch into the energy we need to grow and play.

Word bank: ingestion · oesophagus · stomach · small intestine · large intestine · nutrients · subsequently · meanwhile · crucial · as a result · break down

1. Introduction: Describe the process of ingestion by starting with: The journey of food begins in the mouth, where the teeth and saliva... (2 marks)

2. The Oesophagus and Stomach: Explain how food travels after swallowing by using: Once the food is swallowed, it passes down the oesophagus into the stomach, where... (3 marks)

3. The Small Intestine: Explain the role of nutrients by starting with: After leaving the stomach, the food enters the small intestine, which is where... (3 marks)

4. The Large Intestine: Describe the final stage by starting with: Finally, the remaining waste moves into the large intestine, where the body... (2 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: Explain why the small intestine is considered the most important part of the digestive system compared to the large intestine. Justify your reasoning. (4 marks)

6. Higher-Order Thinking: What might happen to a human's energy levels if their stomach was unable to break down food effectively? Explain your prediction. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a tiny explorer travelling through the digestive system. Write a short, creative diary entry describing the 'sights and sounds' you encounter at each stage of the journey. Use the scientific terms from the word bank to narrate your progress.