

Nova's Human Body Discovery Cards

Learning objective: To identify and describe the functions of the human digestive system, teeth, and skeletal structure in line with the Year 4 Science curriculum.

Use these cards to test your knowledge about how the human body works. Read the question on the front, think about your answer, then check the back to see if you are correct!

What is the main function of the human skeleton?

The skeleton provides support, protects our delicate internal organs, and allows us to move by working with our muscles.

Name the three types of human teeth and describe their roles.

Incisors are for biting and cutting; canines are for tearing; molars are for crushing and grinding food.

Explain the role of the oesophagus in the digestive process.

The oesophagus is the muscular tube that carries food from the mouth down to the stomach.

What is the difference between a herbivore and a carnivore?

A herbivore eats only plants, whereas a carnivore eats only meat. Omnivores eat both plants and meat.

What happens to food once it reaches the stomach?

The stomach churns the food and mixes it with digestive juices to break it down into a thick liquid.

Why is the small intestine important for our bodies?

The small intestine is where nutrients from our food are absorbed into the bloodstream to give us energy.

How do joints help our bodies move?

Joints are the places where two or more bones meet, allowing the skeleton to bend and move flexibly.

What might happen to the digestive process if teeth were unable to grind food effectively?

Digestion would become much slower and more difficult because the stomach would have to work harder to break down large pieces of food.

Compare the teeth of a carnivore with those of a herbivore. Why are they different?

Carnivores have sharp, pointed teeth for tearing meat, while herbivores have flat, broad teeth for grinding tough plant fibres.

Justify why humans have a complex digestive system rather than a simple one.

Because humans are omnivores who eat a wide variety of food, our bodies need a complex system to extract nutrients from many different types of substances.

Explain why it is important for the skeleton to be made of hard bone rather than soft tissue.

Bone provides the rigid structure necessary to hold our body weight and protect vital organs like the heart and lungs.

What might happen if the human body did not have an oesophagus?

Without the oesophagus, food could not travel from the mouth to the stomach, making it impossible for the body to receive nutrients.