

Nova's Guide to the Human Digestive System

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

Use this writing scaffold to explain the journey of food through the human body. Use the word bank to help you link your ideas together logically.

Nova the owl is fascinated by how humans gain energy, so let us investigate the incredible journey our food takes from the moment we take a bite.

Word bank: initially · subsequently · furthermore · consequently · is responsible for · breaks down · efficiently · absorbed · nutrients

1. The Mouth and Oesophagus: Explain what happens the moment food enters the mouth. How does the body prepare it for the journey ahead? (2 marks)

2. The Stomach: Describe the function of the stomach in the digestive process. How does it change the food you have eaten? (3 marks)

3. The Small Intestine: Justify why the small intestine is considered the most vital part of the digestive system regarding nutrients. (3 marks)

4. The Large Intestine: Explain what happens to the remaining waste products once the body has absorbed all the useful energy. (2 marks)

5. Compare and Contrast: Compare the roles of the stomach and the small intestine. How do they work together to ensure the body stays healthy? (4 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: What might happen to a human's energy levels if their digestive system did not function correctly? Explain your reasoning. (3 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 your journey. Use scientific terminology to explain where you are.