

Nova's Digestive System Discovery

Learning objective: To identify and describe the functions of the human digestive system, including the roles of teeth, the oesophagus, the stomach, and the intestines.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of the digestive system. Read the term or question on the front, try to recall the answer, then reveal the back to check your understanding.

What is the main purpose of the digestive system?

To break down the food we eat into nutrients that the body can use for energy, growth, and repair.

Which type of teeth are used for biting and cutting food?

Incisors.

What is the function of the oesophagus?

It is a muscular tube that pushes food from the mouth down into the stomach.

What happens to food inside the stomach?

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

What is the role of saliva in the mouth?

It moistens food to make it easier to swallow and contains enzymes that begin the process of chemical digestion.

Which teeth are designed for tearing and ripping food?

Canines.

What is the primary job of the small intestine?

It absorbs nutrients from the broken-down food into the bloodstream to be used by the body.

What is the main function of the large intestine?

It absorbs water from the remaining undigested food, turning it into waste.

What are molars used for?

They are wide, flat teeth used for grinding and crushing food into smaller pieces.

What is the process called when food is broken down by teeth?

Mechanical digestion.

Why is it important to chew food thoroughly before swallowing?

Chewing increases the surface area of the food, making it easier for the stomach and intestines to digest it efficiently.

What might happen if the large intestine did not absorb water?

The body would lose too much water, and the waste material would remain too liquid.