

The Incredible Journey of Digestion with Bea the Bee

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

Read each question carefully and use your scientific knowledge to explain the digestive process. Use the word bank to help you construct your answers.

Word bank: oesophagus · stomach · small intestine · large intestine · mouth · nutrients · saliva · digestion

1. Bea the Bee is curious about where digestion begins. Describe the two main ways food is broken down inside the mouth. (2 marks)

2. After swallowing, food travels down a muscular tube called the oesophagus. Explain why this movement is necessary for the food to reach the stomach. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the roles of the small intestine and the large intestine in the digestive system. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to the human body if the small intestine were unable to absorb nutrients from our food? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

5. Explain why it is important for teeth to break food into smaller pieces before it enters the stomach. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw and label a diagram of the human digestive system. Include the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, and both intestines. Add a small speech bubble for Bea the Bee explaining one key function.



Extension challenge: Research the length of the small intestine in an adult human. If the small intestine were as short as the large intestine, how would this affect the human body's ability to gain energy from food? Write a short paragraph explaining your hypothesis.