

Bea's Brilliant Digestion Adventure

Learning objective: To understand the basic stages of the human digestive system and the function of teeth.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use full sentences where required.

Bea the honeybee loves to buzz around the garden, but today she is observing the human digestive system. When we eat, the journey begins in the mouth. We use our sharp incisors to bite into food, while our sturdy molars grind it down into smaller pieces. Saliva helps to soften the food, making it easier to swallow. Once swallowed, the food travels down a muscular tube called the oesophagus, which acts like a slide leading directly into the stomach. Inside the stomach, powerful juices break the food down into a thick, soupy liquid. This allows our bodies to extract essential nutrients, which provide us with the energy to run, jump, and learn. Finally, the mixture moves into the intestines. Here, the body absorbs all the goodness it needs to grow strong. Anything the body cannot use is eventually passed out as waste. Digestion is a fascinating, non-stop process that works quietly inside us every single day, turning our lunch into the fuel that powers our busy lives. It is truly a marvel of biological engineering!

Word bank: oesophagus · incisors · molars · nutrients · digestive system · stomach · intestines

1. Which two types of teeth are mentioned in the text, and what are their specific roles in the digestive process? (2 marks)

2. What is the function of the oesophagus during digestion? (2 marks)

3. Why is it important for the stomach to turn food into a 'thick, soupy liquid'? (2 marks)

4. Explain why the body produces waste products instead of keeping everything we eat. (2 marks)

5. If a person did not have any molars, how might their digestion be affected? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of the human digestive system, showing the path food takes from the mouth to the intestines.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a piece of apple. Write a creative diary entry describing your exciting journey through the human digestive system, using at least four words from the word bank.