

Nova's Digestive System Expedition

Learning objective: To identify and describe the functions of the human digestive system in accordance with the Year 4 Science curriculum.

Join Nova the owl on a journey through the digestive system! Read the questions carefully and use your scientific knowledge to label the parts and explain how our bodies process food. Good luck, young biologists!

Answer Key: 1. A (Mouth); 2. True; 3. Oesophagus; 4. B (Stomach); 5. False (It absorbs water); 6. Small intestine; 7. Saliva; 8. C (Nutrients); 9. True; 10. To break down food into energy.

Word bank: Oesophagus · Stomach · Small intestine · Large intestine · Mouth · Saliva · Nutrients · Digestion

1. **1. Where does the process of digestion begin? A) The stomach, B) The mouth*, C) The small intestine, D) The lungs. (1 mark)**

2. **2. True or False: Teeth play a vital role in digestion by mechanically breaking down food. (1 mark)**

3. **3. What is the name of the muscular tube that carries food from the mouth to the stomach? (1 mark)**

4. **4. Which organ uses acid to help break food down into a thick liquid? A) Large intestine, B) Stomach*, C) Teeth, D) Liver. (1 mark)**

5. **5. True or False: The small intestine is where the body absorbs all its water. (1 mark)**

6. **6. In which part of the digestive system are nutrients absorbed into the bloodstream? (1 mark)**

7. **7. What liquid in your mouth helps soften food to make it easier to swallow? (1 mark)**

8. **8. What do we call the useful substances our bodies take from food? A) Waste, B) Acids, C) Nutrients*, D) Saliva. (1 mark)**

9. **9. True or False: The digestive system is a long pathway that starts at the mouth and ends at the rectum. (1 mark)**

10. 10. What is the primary purpose of the digestive system for the human body? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of the human digestive system, showing the path of an apple from the mouth, down the oesophagus, into the stomach, and through the intestines.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenges: 1. Explain why the small intestine is so much longer than the large intestine. 2. Compare and contrast the functions of the stomach and the large intestine. 3. Justify why chewing your food thoroughly is an essential part of digestion. 4. What might happen to a person's energy levels if their small intestine was unable to absorb nutrients effectively? 5. Describe the journey of a sandwich through the body using the vocabulary from the word bank. 6. Propose an experiment to show how surface area affects how quickly a solid (like a sugar cube) dissolves in water, and explain how this relates to digestion.