Bea’s Brilliant Digestion Adventure

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

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below using full sentences.

Bea the honeybee loves to buzz around the garden, but today she is observing how humans digest their food. When you take a bite of an apple, your teeth break it into smaller pieces. Your saliva helps soften the food so it can travel down a long tube called the oesophagus. Once it reaches the stomach, the food is churned and mixed with strong juices. This process turns your meal into a thick liquid, which is essential for your body to absorb the energy it needs. Next, the mixture moves into the small intestine. Here, the body acts like a clever sponge, soaking up all the vital nutrients and vitamins from the liquid. Whatever the body cannot use travels to the large intestine, where water is removed. Finally, the waste is passed out of the body. Digestion is a remarkable journey that happens every single time you eat. It keeps your body strong, healthy, and ready for a brand new day of learning and play!

Word bank: oesophagus · stomach · intestine · nutrients · saliva · digestive system

1. What are the two main jobs of the small intestine during the digestive process? (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what happens to the food once it reaches the stomach? (2 marks)

3. Why is it important that the body turns food into a thick liquid before it reaches the small intestine? (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the digestive process if a person did not chew their food thoroughly? (2 marks)

5. Bea says that digestion is a 'remarkable journey'. Do you agree with her? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram showing the path food takes through the human body, starting from the mouth and ending at the large intestine.

Extension challenge: Research what happens in the large intestine in more detail. Write a short paragraph explaining why removing water is a vital part of the process.