

Nova's Guide to the Digestive Journey

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

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions. Make sure to use evidence from the text to support your answers.

Nova the owl observed the curious way humans fuel their bodies. Digestion begins the moment a person takes a bite. Teeth perform the vital task of mechanical digestion, breaking food into smaller, manageable pieces, while saliva softens it for the journey ahead. Once swallowed, the food travels down the oesophagus, a muscular tube that acts like a slide, pushing the food towards the stomach. Inside the stomach, powerful acids and enzymes churn the food, turning it into a thick, nutrient-rich liquid. From there, the mixture moves into the small intestine. This is where the magic happens; the body absorbs all the essential vitamins and minerals needed for energy and growth. Finally, the remains pass through the large intestine, where water is extracted before the body removes what it no longer requires. Without this complex, internal process, humans would not be able to run, learn, or explore. It is a remarkable system that ensures every part of the human body receives the fuel it needs to stay healthy and strong.

Word bank: oesophagus · stomach · intestines · nutrients · digestion · saliva

1. Identify two parts of the digestive system mentioned in the text that food passes through after it leaves the mouth. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what is the primary role of the small intestine? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the stomach uses acids and enzymes during the digestive process. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to a human if their oesophagus did not function correctly? (3 marks)

5. Do you think the digestive system is the most important system in the human body? Justify your answer using reasons. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the human digestive system. Label the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, and intestines, and add a small speech bubble of Nova the owl explaining one of the parts.



Extension challenge: Research what happens to the body if it does not receive enough nutrients. Write a short paragraph explaining why a balanced diet is essential for the digestive system to work efficiently.