

Nova's Guide to the Human Digestive System

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

Use this scaffold to explain how humans digest food. Think like a scientist! Use the word bank to help you link your ideas together.

Digestion is the remarkable process by which our bodies transform the food we eat into the energy we need to grow, play, and think.

Word bank: oesophagus · stomach · small intestine · large intestine · nutrients · absorption · consequently · subsequently · furthermore · in addition

1. The Journey Begins: Describe what happens to food in the mouth and how it travels down the oesophagus. Start with: 'The digestive process commences when...' (2 marks)

2. The Stomach's Role: Explain the function of the stomach in breaking down food. Start with: 'Once the food reaches the stomach, it is...' (2 marks)

3. Nutrient Absorption: Justify why the small intestine is vital for our health. Start with: 'The small intestine is essential because...' (3 marks)

4. The Final Stages: Compare and contrast the roles of the small and large intestines. Start with: 'While the small intestine absorbs nutrients, the large intestine...' (3 marks)

5. Scientific Conclusion: Explain why humans need a digestive system to survive. Start with: 'In conclusion, the digestive system is necessary for human survival because...' (2 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: What might happen to the body if the small intestine stopped working correctly? Justify your answer. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Nova the owl has challenged you to create a 'Digestive Journey' flow chart. Add detailed labels to your diagram explaining what happens at each stage of the alimentary canal. Then, write a paragraph justifying why a balanced diet is important for keeping this system healthy.