

Nova's Digestive System Discovery

Learning objective: To identify and explain the functions of the human digestive system, including the journey of food from the mouth to excretion.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of human biology to provide detailed answers. Use the word bank to help you complete the sentences.

Word bank: oesophagus · stomach · small intestine · large intestine · saliva · rectum · nutrients

1. Nova the owl is curious about the start of the process. Describe what happens to food in the mouth and explain the role of saliva. (2 marks)

2. After swallowing, food travels down a long tube called the _____. What is the main purpose of this tube? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the stomach is a vital part of the digestive process. What does it do to the food we eat? (2 marks)

4. Where does the absorption of nutrients into the body primarily take place, and what happens to the waste products afterwards? (3 marks)

5. Max the monkey is trying to solve a maths puzzle about health. If you eat a meal that costs £4.50, why is it important that your body digests it properly to extract energy? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of the human digestive system. Include the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, and large intestine.



Extension challenge: Research what happens to the body if the digestive system cannot absorb nutrients correctly (e.g., in the case of food intolerances). Write a short paragraph explaining your findings.