

Nova's Guide to the Digestive System

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

Use the prompts below to write a scientific explanation of how the human body processes food. Use the word bank to help your writing flow, and remember to include scientific vocabulary such as 'oesophagus', 'stomach', and 'small intestine'.

When we eat, our body begins a fascinating journey to turn food into the energy we need to grow and play.

Word bank: firstly · subsequently · after that · breaks down · nutrients · absorbed · finally · as a result

1. The Mouth and Oesophagus: Describe what happens to food as soon as it enters the mouth. Use the sentence starter: 'The process begins in the mouth where teeth chew the food, and then it travels down a tube called the...' (2 marks)

2. The Stomach's Role: Explain how the stomach changes the food. Use the sentence starter: 'Once the food reaches the stomach, it is mixed with acids to...' (2 marks)

3. The Small Intestine: What is the main job of the small intestine? Use the sentence starter: 'In the small intestine, the body works to absorb...' (2 marks)

4. The Large Intestine: What happens to the waste that the body cannot use? Use the sentence starter: 'Finally, the remaining waste moves into the large intestine where...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Why is digestion important for human survival? Use the sentence starter: 'Digestion is essential because without it, our bodies would not be able to...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Nova the Owl is curious! Can you create a flow chart to illustrate the journey of a bite of apple, labelling each organ it passes through?