

Year 5 Science Assessment: The Science of Teeth

Learning objective: To describe the functions of basic parts of the human digestive system and identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions.

Read each question carefully. Use your scientific knowledge to provide detailed explanations. Ensure you use appropriate vocabulary when describing the digestive process and dental structure.

Nova the owl has been observing how different animals eat their food. She noticed that the shape of an animal's teeth is perfectly adapted to the food they consume. Humans, being omnivores, have a variety of tooth shapes to process a diverse diet.

Word bank: incisor · canine · molar · premolar · enamel · dentine · digestion · mechanical · oesophagus · stomach · carnivore · herbivore

1. Identify the three main types of teeth found in an adult human mouth and explain the specific function of each type. (3 marks)

2. Nova asks: 'Why do humans have different shaped teeth instead of just one type?' Justify your answer by linking tooth shape to the process of digestion. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the teeth of a primary consumer (herbivore) and a secondary consumer (carnivore). What might happen if a carnivore only had flat, wide molars? (4 marks)

4. Label the parts of the digestive system in order, starting from the mouth, that food travels through after being chewed. (3 marks)

5. Explain why it is important to brush your teeth twice a day. What is the role of enamel in protecting the tooth? (2 marks)

6. Max the monkey is investigating how sugary drinks affect teeth. Design a fair test to observe the effect of different liquids on eggshells (which act like tooth enamel). Include what you will keep the same to ensure your test is fair. (5 marks)

7. If a human lost all of their incisors, how would this affect their ability to eat a healthy diet? Explain your reasoning. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a human tooth and label the following parts: enamel, dentine, and the root. Annotate your drawing to explain where decay usually begins.



Extension challenge: Write a short report for Bea the honeybee explaining the evolutionary advantages of having different types of teeth. Consider why humans developed the ability to chew food before it reaches the stomach. Total: /25