

Bea's Dental Discovery: A Scientific Investigation

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and explain the functions of the different types of human teeth in the digestive system.

Follow Bea the Honeybee's guide to human teeth. Use your knowledge of biology to complete the fact-file. Remember to use precise scientific vocabulary when explaining how our teeth help us eat and survive.

Word bank: incisors · canines · molars · premolars · herbivore · carnivore · omnivore · enamel · mastication · function

1. Identify the three main types of teeth found in an adult human mouth and describe the specific shape and primary function of each. (6 marks)

2. Explain why human teeth are classified as omnivorous. Justify your answer by referencing how our different teeth allow us to process a varied diet. (4 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the function of incisors with the function of molars. How does their structure support their role in the digestive process? (4 marks)

4. What might happen to the digestion process if a human lacked molars entirely? Explain the consequences for the body. (3 marks)

5. Research and explain the role of enamel in protecting the tooth. Why is it vital that we keep this outer layer healthy? (3 marks)

6. If you were designing a new creature that only ate tough, fibrous plants, how would its teeth differ from a human's? Justify your design choices. (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a dentist in the year 2100. Write a short persuasive paragraph explaining to your patients why maintaining dental hygiene is the most important factor in overall human health. Use at least four terms from the word bank.