Year 6 Science Assessment: The Human Digestive System – Teeth

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

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to help you with your answers. Ensure your explanations are clear and scientific.

Bea the honeybee has been busy observing the different ways humans eat. She noticed that humans have four different types of teeth, each playing a specific role in breaking down food before it travels to the stomach. Understanding our teeth helps us understand how the process of digestion begins.

Word bank: incisors · canines · premolars · molars · enamel · dentine · digestion · mechanical · chewing

1. Name the four types of teeth found in an adult human mouth. (2 marks)

2. Explain the primary function of the incisors. Why are they shaped the way they are? (3 marks)

3. Max the monkey is eating a crunchy apple. Which type of teeth will he primarily use to grind the apple into smaller pieces, and why? (3 marks)

4. Describe the function of canines. How do they differ from incisors in their shape and purpose? (4 marks)

5. Nova the owl is looking at a diagram of a tooth. Explain the importance of the outer layer, known as enamel, and what might happen to a tooth if this layer is damaged by sugary foods. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are explaining the digestive process to a younger student. Describe how the different types of teeth work together as a team to begin the process of digestion. You should mention all four types of teeth and explain the importance of 'mechanical' breakdown. (9 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a human jaw. Label the positions of the incisors, canines, premolars, and molars clearly.

Extension challenge: Total: /25