Bea’s Dental Discovery: The Function of Teeth

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

Bea the honeybee has been studying how humans eat. Look at the three types of teeth listed in the word bank. Match each tooth type to its correct function by writing the name of the tooth next to the description. Then, complete the questions to explain how these teeth help us digest our food.

Word bank: Incisors · Canines · Molars

1. 1. I am sharp and pointed, designed for tearing food. Which tooth am I? (1 mark)

2. 2. I am broad and flat, perfect for grinding and crushing food. Which tooth am I? (1 mark)

3. 3. I am thin and blade-like, used for biting and cutting into food. Which tooth am I? (1 mark)

4. 4. Why is it important for our molars to have a large, flat surface area? Explain how this helps the digestive process. (2 marks)

5. 5. Imagine you are eating a crisp apple. Describe the journey of the apple through your mouth, naming which teeth you use at each stage of the first bite. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a human mouth showing where you would find the incisors, canines, and molars. Use different colours to shade each type of tooth and add a key to your drawing.

Extension challenge: Research why herbivores (animals that only eat plants) and carnivores (animals that only eat meat) have different shaped teeth. Write a short paragraph explaining how a lion's teeth might differ from a cow's teeth based on their diet.