Year 4 - Human Body Systems: The Digestive System & Teeth

Biology

Key vocabulary	
digestive system	The organs in your body involved in the digestion of food.
digestion	That is the way the body breaks down food so the body can absorb it.
salivary glands	Any of three pairs of glands in the mouth and digestive system that secrete saliva for digestion.
saliva	Mostly made of water and helps to chew, taste and swallow food. It contains enzymes which help to break down the food we eat.
oesophagus	The tube that leads from the mouth through the throat to the stomach.
stomach	The organ into which food passes from the oesophagus for mixing and digestion before passing to the small intestine.
small intestine	The main site of the digestion of food into small molecules which are absorbed into the body.
large intestine	Takes water and some minerals from leftover food material and creates solid waste.
enzyme	Special molecules in the body white create chemical reactions. In the digestive system they react to help break down food.
muscle	Produce movement around the body by tightening and relaxing.
enamel	The hard material that covers the outside of our teeth.

Teeth

Humans have 4 types of teeth:

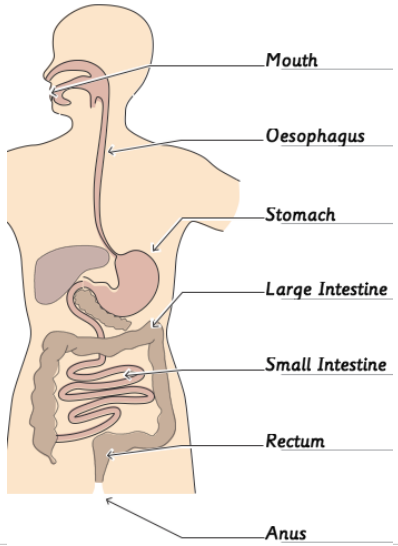
Incisors - used for cutting

Canines - use to rip and tear food

Molars and Premolars - used for grinding and chewing food



The Digestive System



Mouth	Food enters the digestive system through the mouth. It is broken into smaller pieces by chewing. The food is mixed with saliva which makes it sort and easier to swallow.
Oesophagus	The broken down food then travels down the oesophagus. Muscles help to push the food along into the stomach.
Stomach	The stomach produces very strong acid which kills anything harmful that might have been swallowed with your food. It also has chemicals called enzymes which break down the food so it can be absorbed into the body.
Small Intestine	Digested food is then passed through the wall of the intestine into the bloodstream. The blood carries the useful substances around the body to where they are needed.
Large Intestine	By the time the food reaches the large intestine, most of the food has been absorbed into the body. This just leaves the waste that the body does not need or cant digest.
Rectum and Anus	The remaining waste leaves the body through the rectum and the anus.