Animal including humans: Digestion

Significant Scientist

Ivan Pavlov



Ivan Pavlov (1849-1936) Ivan Pavlov worked to unveil the secrets of the digestive system, but he also studied what signals triggered phenomena, such as the secretion of saliva through his famous Pavlov's dog experiments.

Herbivore	Elephant - herbivore incisors molars
Carnivore	incisors canines canines carnassial teeth premolars
Omnivore	incisors molars canines premolars

Enquiry Skills

Identifying and classifying

Research

Pattern seeking

Working Scientifically Skills

Oral and written explanations

Gather, record, classify and present data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions

Key Knowledge

The Digestive System

- The smell of food triggers saliva to be produced.
- The digestive system begins with the mouth and teeth where food is chewed.
- Saliva is mixed with the food which helps to break it up.
- When the food is small enough to be swallowed, it is pushed down the oesophagus by muscles to the stomach.
- In the stomach, food is mixed further.
- The mixed food is then sent to the small intestine which absorbs nutrients from the food.
- Any leftover broken down food then moves on to the large intestine.
- The food minus the nutrients arrives in the rectum where muscles turn it into faeces. It is stored here until it is pushed out by the anus. This is called excretion.

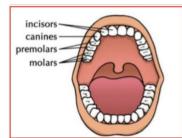
Teeth

- Teeth are used for cutting and chewing food.
- They start the digestive process which gives us the energy we need to live.
- Canines are pointed for tearing and ripping food these are usually used when chewing meat.
- Incisors are shovel shaped and help bite lumps out of and cut food.
- Premolars and molars are flat and they grind and crush food.

Humans look after their teeth by brushing and flossing and ensuring that they do not eat foods high in sugar. Not looking after teeth can lead to an increase in plaque and tooth decay.

The teeth of an animal are designed to eat different foods depending on the diet of the animal. Herbivore, carnivore and omnivore.





Key Vocabulary		
saliva	The watery liquid that forms in your mouth and helps you to chew and digest food.	
oesophagus	The part of your body that carries the food from the throat to the stomach.	
stomach	The organ inside your body where food is digested before it moves into the intestines.	
intestine	The tubes in your body through which food passes when it has left your stomach.	
digestion	The breaking down of food that is eaten.	
nutrition	The process of taking food into the body and absorbing the nutrients in those foods.	
excretion	Process of getting rid of faeces, urine or sweat through the body.	
canine	Pointed teeth near the front of the mouth in humans and some animals.	
incisor	The teeth at the front of your mouth which you use for biting into food.	
molar	The large, flat teeth towards the back of your mouth that you use for chewing food.	

