



## Digestive system in humans

Children have many misconceptions about the digestive system, which is not surprising since they cannot see inside the body and some of their ideas develop through hearing saying such as, 'it must have gone down the wrong way' or 'you have hollow legs'.

So some children think that when they eat solid food goes down one tube and liquid a different one, and that food they eat goes into their legs.

Eliciting children's ideas by asking them to draw what they think is inside the body, stick body parts onto a picture and describe what they think happens to food is important.

### Working scientifically

Pupils should ask their own questions about the digestive system and decide the best way to answer them, they can work scientifically by finding out about scientists and scientific research e.g. the work of William Beaumont, Pavlov. They could then engage in communicating their work through, 'hot seating' dramatic monologues, play scripts, newspaper articles and so on.

### Key scientific vocabulary

Abdomen, body, bowel, digestion, digestive system, eat, excrete, food, intestines, liquids, nutrients, organ, processes, saliva, solids, stomach, urinate

### Link to resource packages

Year 4 Animals including humans: [www.nationalstemcentre.org.uk/elibrary/list/7130/year-4-animals-including-humans](http://www.nationalstemcentre.org.uk/elibrary/list/7130/year-4-animals-including-humans)

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- Identifying and naming common plants, animals
- Classification of plants and animals
- Evolution and inheritance
- Forces – that motion can be transferred using gears and pulleys