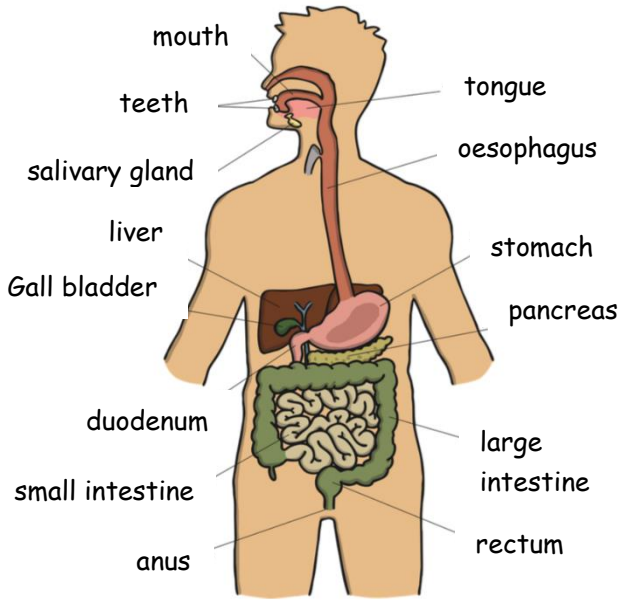
Science – Human Digestion – Year 4 – Autumn 2

Vocabulary Top Ten:

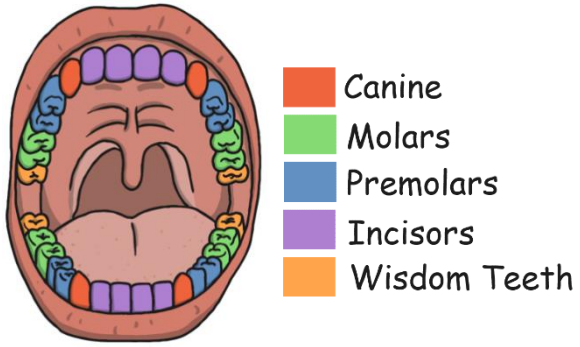
digestive system	breaks down food and turns it into energy
enzymes	speed up reactions in the body e.g. help to break down food
large intestine	an organ which absorbs water from the remaining food waste, turning it into solid waste
nutrients	the substances in food that our bodies process to enable it to function
oesophagus	a long muscular tube that leads to the stomach
plaque	a sticky film of bacteria that constantly forms on your teeth
stools	waste product
small intestine	an organ where food is digested and nutrients are absorbed into the blood
tooth decay	the destruction of your tooth enamel
tooth enamel	the visible part of the tooth which is harder than bone and protects the tooth

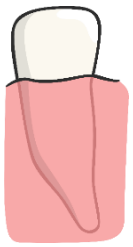
Digestive System



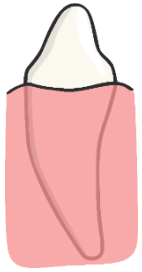
mouth and salivary glands	Food enters the digestive system. Saliva breaks down starch that helps soften the food.
teeth and tongue	The tongue mixes the food with saliva and the teeth tear, cut and grind food for transport.
oesophagus	After swallowing, the food then travels down the oesophagus to the stomach.
stomach	Enzymes and acids are produced to break food down. The stomach contains powerful muscles that churn and mix food into smaller and smaller pieces.
pancreas	Produces enzymes to break down fats, carbohydrates and proteins that are released in the duodenum (first part of the small intestine).
liver and gall bladder	Produces bile which breaks down fats. The liver sends the bile to the gall bladder to store, which releases it into the duodenum when it is needed.
small intestine	In the duodenum, food is broken down by enzymes and bile. The other two parts of the small intestine absorb the nutrients they need.
large intestine	Absorbs water from the remaining food and the rest forms into stools (the waste product).
rectum	Stores the stools until they are ready to be released and then sends signals to the brain that there are stools that need releasing.
anus	Stools move from the rectum are released from the anus.

Teeth

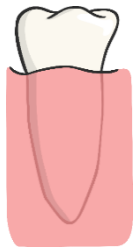




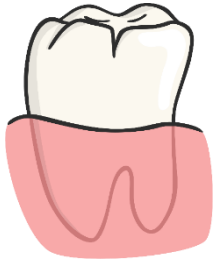
Incisors - used for cutting and biting food.



Canine - used for tearing and ripping food.



Premolars - used for holding and crushing food.



Molars - used for grinding food. Some humans have **wisdom teeth** (up to 4). They are types of molars and may be used for grinding.