

Journey Through the Human Digestive System

Subject	Lesson Type	Duration	Grade Level
biology	direct instruction	55	7

Overview

1. Introduction 10 Min
2. Detailed Exploration of the Digestive System 30 Min
3. Critical Thinking Activity 10 Min
4. Conclusion and Q&A 5 Min

Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.3
 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.4
 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.7

Background Knowledge

This lesson will provide a comprehensive overview of the human digestive system. Students will learn about the different organs involved, their respective functions, and how they work together to digest food. This foundational knowledge will be crucial for understanding human biology and health.

Skills

1. critical thinking

Objectives

1. Understand the main organs involved in the human digestive system
2. Learn the functions of each organ in the digestive process
3. Develop critical thinking skills by analyzing how the digestive system works together as a whole

Lesson Plan

Introduction 10 Min

Start the lesson with an engaging hook. Ask students a provocative question: 'Have you ever wondered what happens to the food you eat?' Use this to activate prior knowledge and spark curiosity. Introduce the topic by briefly explaining that today's lesson will cover the journey of food through the human digestive system. Show a short video (3-4 minutes) that provides a visual overview of the digestive system. Follow up with a quick interactive demonstration using a piece of bread and water to simulate the initial stages of digestion.

Note:

Ensure the video is age-appropriate and engaging. Use simple language to explain the concepts.

Section resources:

[youtube video - how your digestive system works - emma bryce](#)

Detailed Exploration of the Digestive System 30 Min

Present new material in structured, manageable chunks. Start with the mouth and proceed through the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, and finally the rectum. Use a combination of storytelling and context excerpts to make the content engaging. For each organ, explain its function and role in digestion. Use a worksheet with diagrams of the digestive system for students to label and annotate as you go through each part. Incorporate a Jeopardy game halfway through to reinforce key terms and concepts learned so far.

Note:

Break down the information into digestible parts and check for understanding frequently. Use the worksheet to help students visualize and retain the information.

Critical Thinking Activity 10 Min

Organize students into small groups for a cooperative learning activity using the Jigsaw Method. Assign each group a specific organ or part of the digestive system to research in more detail. Provide task cards with guiding questions and context excerpts to help them. After researching, have each group present their findings to the class. Follow up with a structured academic controversy where students debate the importance of each organ in the digestive process.

Note:

Encourage students to think critically about how each part of the digestive system contributes to the whole process. Facilitate the debate to ensure it remains respectful and productive.

Section resources:

[task cards - digestive system function research tasks](#)

[context reference sheet - dive into digestion](#)**Conclusion and Q&A 5 Min**

Summarize the key points covered in the lesson. Use a Rule Table to recap the functions of each organ in the digestive system. Open the floor for a Q&A session where students can ask questions and clarify any doubts. End with a quick write activity where students write down one thing they learned and one question they still have about the digestive system.

Note:

Use the Rule Table to help students organize and remember the information. Encourage all students to participate in the Q&A and quick write activities.

Section resources:

[rule table reference sheet - digestive system functions rule table](#)**Assessment and Reflection 10 Min**

Distribute a worksheet with a mix of multiple-choice, short answer, and labeling questions to assess students' understanding of the digestive system. Allow time for individual practice and provide feedback. Use a peer review workshop where students exchange worksheets and provide feedback to each other. End with a reflection activity where students discuss how the digestive system relates to their everyday life and health.

Note:

Ensure the assessment covers all key points from the lesson. Use the peer review workshop to promote collaborative learning and self-assessment.

Section resources:

[assessment worksheet - assessment and reflection on the digestive system](#)