

Student worksheet

7.3 The digestive system varies between animals

Pages 120–121

The digestive systems of various animals

- 1

What is the function of the each of the different types of teeth?
- 2

How would a palaeontologist be able to tell if an animal was a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore?
- 3

Are humans categorised as carnivores, herbivores or omnivores? How can you tell?
- 4

What is the function of the caecum?
- 5

Why would animals have a caecum?
- 6

What is the problem with the position of the caecum on the digestive tract? How do some animals overcome this problem?



7 What is the major difference between a cow's and a human's digestive system?

8 What is a ruminant?

9 What other animals are ruminants?

10 Using the information on page 121 of your student book and your knowledge of the function of digestive organs, match the organ involved in a cow's digestive system with its function.

ORGAN

1 Omasum

2 Rumen

3 Small intestine

4 Oesophagus

5 Udder

6 Abomasum

7 Large intestine

8 Reticulum

FUNCTION

A Absorption of chemicals into the blood stream

B Chewed grass moves through this pathway to the next organ

C Second compartment of the stomach: grass is softened and clumps together to form cud

D Contains the milk in cows that have given birth to a calf

E First compartment of the stomach: grass is softened by fluids

F Absorbs, re-circulates and conserves water and minerals

G Fourth compartment of the stomach: breaks food down into biomolecules (protein, vitamins, simple carbohydrates, fats and amino acids)

H Third compartment of the stomach: cud is pressed and reduced in size

Extend your understanding

The udder contains the milk in cows that have given birth to a calf. It takes up to 70 hours for a cow to turn grass into milk. For every litre of milk a cow makes, more than 400 litres of blood must travel around her udder to deliver the nutrients from the grass. Australian dairy cows produce about 15 litres of milk a day.

- 11 If a cow produces 15 litres of milk per day, how much blood must travel around their udder each day?
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- 12 How much milk is a female cow capable of producing in one year?
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- 13 How much milk are 100 female cows capable of producing in one year?
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- 14 A farmer has 100 cows on a farm. If she wants to produce 684 375 litres of milk each year, how many more cows will she need to purchase?
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