

Suzy's World

Digestion - What happens when you eat baked beans?

Fact

- Your front teeth cut up the Baked Beans and your back teeth mash and grind them.
- The Baked Bean mash is rolled into a ball by your tongue then pushed down your oesophagus.
- The digestive juices in your stomach break the food down.
- The nutrients are digested and absorbed in your small intestine.
- The leftover food (bean skin) has the water removed from it when it passes through your large intestine.
- And it is then stored in your rectum until you push it out your anus as poos.
- What happens to the Baked Beans happens to everything you eat.



Do you know?

- Your body makes about a litre and half of saliva every day.
- The gases produced in your digestive system, when it breaks down the food, often escapes as a burp.
- You have about 7 meters of intestines curled up inside your body.
- It can take 10 hours for food to move from one end of your intestine to the other.
- By the time you're 70 you'll have eaten 30,000 kilograms of food (6 whole elephants).
- This digestion process happens to animals too – food is broken down in the digestive system of the animal (some systems work a bit differently but they do the same sort of job) and wastes (poos) are passed out through the animal's bottom!

Experiments you can do

Next time you eat baked beans or spaghetti concentrate on how your mouth works. How does your tongue move the beans around?
Can you feel any burps rising up from your stomach?
Bite into an apple and think about how your teeth work.



Other Investigations

Observe a cat or dog eating. Do they use their sharp teeth the same way you do?

Think about the sorts of things they eat? How is it similar or different to what you eat? Would their digestive system work in the same way as yours?

Find out about the digestive system of a cow or a goat!

Jokes

How come skeletons don't eat baked beans? They can't "stomach" them.