

Why does a sheep have **four** stomachs?

Sheep need four stomachs to digest the fibrous food they eat. The first three stomachs make the fibrous foods into a 'soup' and in the fourth stomach, which is like a human stomach, digestion really begins.

- The first stomach is the **rumen** (say roo-men) it contains a lot of liquid and millions of 'friendly bacteria' which make a grassy soup. Sometimes the sheep sends a mouthful of soup back up to the mouth for more chewing (this is chewing the cud).



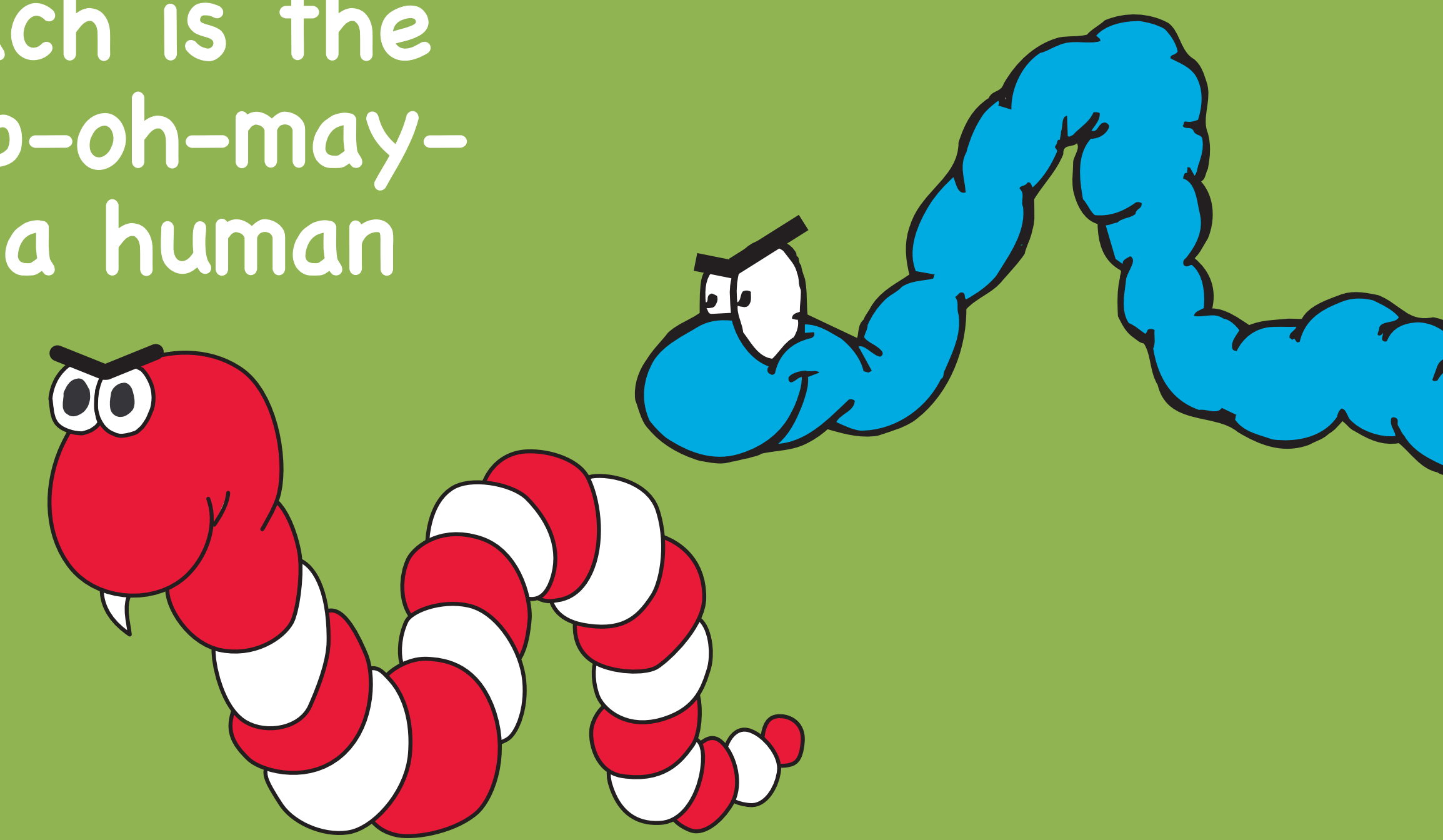
- The second stomach is the **reticulum** (say ret-ick-yoo-lum). The 'soup' is squeezed between here and the rumen to mush it up.



- The third stomach is the **omasum** (say oh-may-sum). This stomach makes sure the soup is smooth and not lumpy.



- The fourth stomach is the **abomasum** (say ab-oh-may-sum). This is like a human stomach and is where Roddy and Vincent feed.



- The abomasum leads to the **intestine** (say in-test-tine). Tina lives here.

