

# Digestion

- Phases Include
  - 1. Ingestion
  - 2. Movement
  - 3. Mechanical and Chemical Digestion
  - 4. Absorption
  - 5. Elimination

# Digestion

- Types
  - Mechanical (physical)
    - Chew
    - Tear
    - Grind
    - Mash
    - Mix
  - Chemical
    - Enzymatic reactions to improve digestion of
      - Carbohydrates
      - Proteins
      - Lipids

# Mouth

 Teeth mechanically break down food into small pieces. Tongue mixes food with saliva (contains amylase, which helps break down starch).



Epiglottis is a flap-like structure at the back of the throat that closes over the trachea preventing food from entering it.



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## Esophagus

- Approximately 10" long
- Functions include:
- 1. Secrete mucus
- Moves food from the throat to the stomach using muscle movement called peristalsis
- If acid from the stomach gets in here that's heartburn.



## Stomach

- J-shaped muscular bag that stores the food you eat, breaks it down into tiny pieces.
- Mixes food with digestive juices that contain enzymes to break down proteins and lipids.
- Acid in the stomach kills bacteria.
- Food found in the stomach is called chyme.





# Small Intestine

- Small intestines are roughly 7 meters long
- Lining of intestine walls has finger-like projections called villi, to increase surface area.
- The villi are covered in microvilli which further increases surface area for absorption.
- Bile aids in the chemical digestion of lipids
- Enzymes continue to digest carbohydrates, lipids and proteins.





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## Small Intestine

- Nutrients from the food pass into the bloodstream through the small intestine walls.
- Absorbs:
  - 80% ingested water
  - Vitamins
  - Minerals
  - Carbohydrates
  - Proteins
  - Lipids
  - Secretes digestive enzymes



### Large Intestine

- About 5 feet long
- Continues to absorb water
- Rectum (short term storage which holds feces before it is expelled).



#### Large Intestine

- Absorbs more water
- Concentrate wastes



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### Accessory Organs

- Not part of the path of food, but play a critical role.
- Include: Liver, gall bladder, and pancreas



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### Liver

- Directly affects digestion by producing bile
  - Bile helps digest fat
  - filters out toxins and waste including drugs and alcohol





### Gall Bladder

- Stores bile from the liver, releases it into the small intestine.
- Fatty diets can cause gallstones



#### Pancreas

- Produces digestive enzymes to digest fats, carbohydrates and proteins
- Regulates blood sugar by producing insulin



# How'd you do?

- Green: Esophagus
- Red: Stomach
- Pink: Small Intestine
- Brown: Large Intestine
- Purple: Liver
- Green: Gall Bladder
- Yellow: Pancreas



### **References and Links**

- Your Digestive System and How It Works
  - Digestive system diagram comes from this site
- The Real Deal on the Digestive System
- Pancreas: Introduction and Index
- Your Gross and Cool Body Digestive System