

THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

The digestive system is a group of organs that work together to break down food and absorb nutrients. It starts in the mouth, where food is chewed and mixed with saliva. Saliva contains enzymes that begin breaking down carbohydrates.

The food then passes through the esophagus, a tube that connects the mouth to the stomach. In the stomach, the food is mixed with digestive juices, including acid and enzymes, which break down proteins.

Next, the food goes into the small intestine. Here, most of the digestion and absorption happen. The small intestine is long and has many folds to increase the surface area for absorption. It receives bile from the liver, which helps break down fats, and enzymes from the pancreas to help digest carbohydrates, proteins, and fats.

After the small intestine, the remaining food passes into the large intestine. The large intestine absorbs water and salts from the leftover food. The waste then becomes solid and is expelled from the body through the rectum.

The liver, pancreas, and gallbladder are important accessory organs in digestion. They produce and store substances that help break down food.

This system works continuously to provide the body with the nutrients it needs to function properly and stay healthy.

Now, answer the following questions.

Where does digestion begin in the human body?

- a. stomach
- b. small intestine
- c. mouth
- d. large intestine

What is the function of the stomach?

- a. Absorb nutrients
- b. Mix food with digestive juices and acid to break down proteins
- c. Push food to the esophagus
- d. Absorb water

Which organ helps absorb most nutrients into the bloodstream?

- a. Large intestine.
- b. Liver
- c. Small intestine
- d. Pancreas

What is the main job of the large intestine?

- a. Digest fats
- b. Remove excess water from undigested food
- c. Produce bile
- d. Break down carbohydrates

2. Select True or False

- a. The esophagus produces digestive juices. (**TRUE // FALSE**)
- b. Saliva contains enzymes that help begin carbohydrate digestion. (**TRUE // FALSE**)
- c. The rectum stores waste before it leaves the body. (**TRUE // FALSE**)

3. Match the organs with their functions:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| a) Mouth | 1. Absorbs water and salts |
| b) Stomach | 2. Starts digestion by chewing and mixing the saliva |
| c) Large intestine | 3. Mixes food with enzymes and acid to break down the proteins |
| d) Small intestine | 4. Absorb nutrients into the bloodstream |