

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## How the Digestive System Works

To find out what you already know about the digestive system, write a word or words from the Word Bank to complete each definition.

### Word Bank

gastric juice	digestion	large intestine	rectum	tongue
appendix	enzymes	intestinal juice	saliva	villi
peristalsis	esophagus	mechanical	small intestine	bile
chemical	salivary glands	gallbladder	pancreas	stomach

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the process by which food is broken down into substances that can be used by the cells of the body.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. In the digestive system, food undergoes two kinds of digestion. \_\_\_\_\_ digestion occurs as the food is broken into smaller pieces.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Mechanical digestion prepares the food for \_\_\_\_\_ digestion, which is the process by which foods are chemically changed into simpler substances.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Digestion begins as soon as food enters the mouth, where the teeth and tongue work together to physically break down the food into smaller pieces. As chewing takes place, a secretion from the \_\_\_\_\_ softens and lubricates the food.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. This secretion from the salivary glands is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Saliva contains \_\_\_\_\_, substances that speed up chemical reactions and break down large starch molecules into smaller molecules of sugar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The \_\_\_\_\_ helps push food to the back of the mouth where it is swallowed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. After being swallowed, the food passes into a muscular tube called the \_\_\_\_\_, which connects the mouth to the stomach.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Food in the esophagus is squeezed toward the stomach by contraction and relaxation of the muscles in the esophagus. This muscular action, known as \_\_\_\_\_, also helps to move food through the rest of the digestive tract.