

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.