

Digestive System

The digestive system breaks food down to tiny molecules that can be absorbed into the bloodstream and distributed to cells.

1. salivary glands: glands in the cheeks and under the tongue which produce saliva to moisten food as it is chewed. Salivary glands also secrete enzymes which break down starches in the mouth.

2. esophagus: muscular tube which creates peristaltic waves to carry swallowed food from the throat to the stomach.

3. stomach: muscular organ which churns food and secretes enzymes and acids for food digestion.

4. small intestine: hollow tube where chemical digestion continues and nutrients are absorbed into the bloodstream.

5. pancreas: organ which secretes enzymes for starch and protein digestion into the small intestine.

6. liver: organ which processes digested food into useful substances for the body, secretes bile for fat digestion, and removes toxins from the blood.

7. gall bladder: storage sac for bile located on the lower surface of the liver.

8. cecum: main part of the large intestine which absorbs water from indigestible food.

9. rectum: final section of the large intestine which eliminates waste material from the body.

