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Gulp (Don't Gag): Modeling the Complexity of the Digestive System

By ALISON FROUDIE and JENNIFER CUTWARD

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Overview | In this lesson, students research the digestive system in depth, and then create a detailed walk-through model to illustrate each compartment.

Materials | Computers with Internet access, projection equipment, an assortment of art supplies (butcher paper, fabric, yarn, cardboard, colored paper, tissue paper, paints, markers, glue, staples, tape, scissors, etc.)

Warm-up | When students arrive, project "Gulp! The Quiz" at the front of the room. If you have enough workstations for students to complete the quiz in pairs, have students pair up to take the quiz. If not, you may take the quiz as a class, asking students to raise their hands for each answer they think is correct.

When you have finished, lead a short discussion to debrief the quiz. Ask:

- Did any of the answers surprise you? Why?
- Did any of these questions embarrass you or make you giggle? Which ones? Why? (Very likely, there will be some snickering when you get to the questions about flatulence.)

Ask students to think about why they may find this topic funny, gross or uncomfortable as you then play the video "The Inside Scoop on Your Insides."