



Lesson 3: The Digestive System

Esophagus
Liver
Gallbladder
Pancreas
Stomach
Large Intestine
Small Intestine
Appendix
Rectum
Anus

The digestive system is made up of the organs that carry out the process of digestion.

So what is digestion?

Digestion is the process by which our bodies break down food so that it can be used for energy.



Discovery Education Video:

Food Into Fuel: Our Digestive System

**Our bodies break down
food in two ways:**

**Mechanical digestion is the
breaking down of food into
smaller pieces.**



**Chewing is
an example of
mechanical
digestion.**

Chemical digestion is the process of breaking down food into nutrients that our bodies can use.

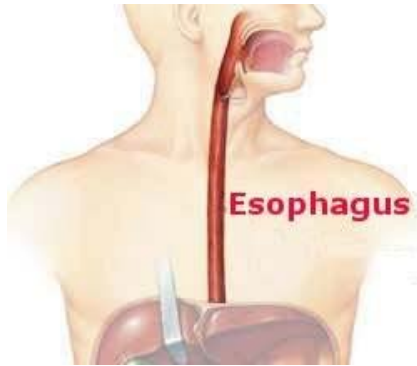
When the acid in our stomach breaks down food, this is an example of chemical digestion.



Digestion begins in the mouth.



The teeth crush the food into smaller pieces as we chew, while saliva begins to soften and break down the food.



When we swallow, the food travels down our esophagus.

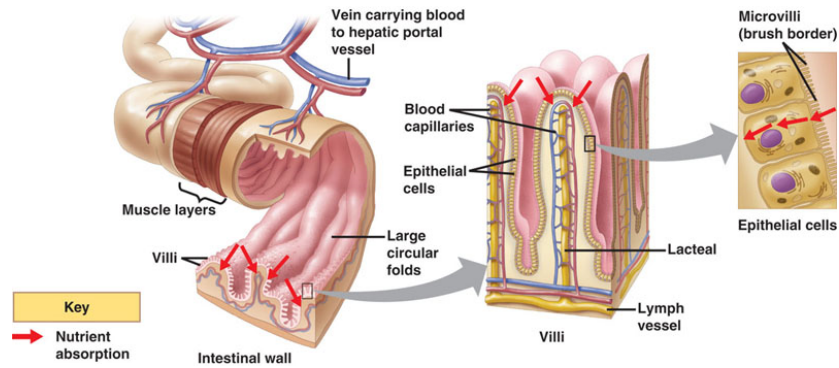
Muscles lining the esophagus help to move the food downward toward the stomach.

Inside the stomach, hydrochloric acid (HCl) and other digestive fluids continue to chemically break down food.

The stomach's rough lining also works to break food into smaller pieces.



**Next food moves into the small intestine.
Villi inside the small intestine continue to
break down food and absorb nutrients
that our bodies can use.**



**The remaining food
passes through the
large intestine.**



**At this point our body
has absorbed all the
energy that it can from
the food, and what
remains will be
removed from the
body as waste.**

The Digestive System: Key Questions

- 1. What are the important organs in the digestive system and what is their function?**
- 2. How does the digestive system help the body?**
- 3. How does food travel through the digestive system?**