

# What is the Digestive System?

## Worksheet

The digestive system ingests food, breaks it down mechanically and chemically, absorbs nutrients into the blood, and eliminates waste. Its main organs, in order, are the mouth, esophagus, stomach, small intestine and large intestine.

## Questions

1. Which organ absorbs the majority of nutrients?

- A) Stomach
- B) Small intestine
- C) Large intestine
- D) Esophagus

2. What is chyme?

- A) A digestive enzyme
- B) Bile stored in the gallbladder
- C) The acidic, semi-liquid mix of food and gastric juice
- D) Undigested fiber

3. Where is bile produced?

- A) Gallbladder
- B) Pancreas
- C) Liver
- D) Small intestine

4. What is the main job of the large intestine?

- A) Chemical digestion of protein
- B) Absorbing water and electrolytes
- C) Producing digestive enzymes
- D) Mechanical breakdown of food

5. Trace a bite of bread from the mouth to absorption in the bloodstream.

6. Why does most nutrient absorption happen in the small intestine rather than the stomach?

7. Which accessory organs release digestive juices into the small intestine, and what do they do?

8. Define: What is the correct order of the main digestive organs?

9. Define: What are the accessory digestive organs?

10. Define: What is chyme?

## Answer Key

1. B) Small intestine - The small intestine's villi and microvilli give it a huge absorptive surface area.
2. C) The acidic, semi-liquid mix of food and gastric juice - Chyme forms in the stomach as food is broken down and mixed with gastric juice.
3. C) Liver - The liver produces bile; the gallbladder only stores and concentrates it.
4. B) Absorbing water and electrolytes - The large intestine mainly reabsorbs water and electrolytes and hosts bacterial fermentation of fiber.
5. Mouth: chewing + salivary amylase start breaking down starch Esophagus: peristalsis carries the bolus to the stomach Stomach: gastric juices further break it into chyme Small intestine: pancreatic enzymes finish digestion; villi absorb glucose into the blood
6. The stomach mainly digests protein and has a thick protective mucosa, not built for absorption The small intestine's inner wall is covered in villi and microvilli This creates a huge surface area (about 30-40 m in an adult), ideal for absorbing nutrients into the blood
7. Pancreas: releases enzymes (amylase, lipase, trypsin) into the duodenum Liver: produces bile Gallbladder: stores and releases bile, which emulsifies fats so lipase can act on them
8. Mouth esophagus stomach small intestine large intestine rectum anus.
9. Salivary glands, liver, gallbladder and pancreas - they add enzymes and bile but food never passes through them.
10. The semi-liquid mixture of partially digested food and gastric juice leaving the stomach.

### **Bounlu**

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