

What is the Digestive System?

Worksheet

The digestive system is a series of organs - mouth, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, and large intestine - that mechanically and chemically break down food into absorbable nutrients and eliminate waste.

Questions

1. Which organ absorbs most of the nutrients from digested food?
 - A) Stomach
 - B) Small intestine
 - C) Large intestine
 - D) Esophagus
2. What is the main function of the large intestine?
 - A) Protein digestion
 - B) Nutrient absorption
 - C) Water reabsorption
 - D) Enzyme production
3. Which organ produces bile?
 - A) Pancreas
 - B) Liver
 - C) Stomach
 - D) Gallbladder
4. What breaks down proteins in the stomach?
 - A) Amylase
 - B) Bile
 - C) Pepsin and hydrochloric acid
 - D) Lipase
5. What happens to a piece of bread from the moment you chew it?
6. How does the body digest a fatty meal (e.g. fried food)?
7. What happens to fiber that the body cannot digest?
8. Define: What is peristalsis?
9. Define: Where does most nutrient absorption happen?
10. Define: What enzyme in saliva starts starch digestion?

Answer Key

1. B) Small intestine - The small intestine's villi provide a huge surface area for nutrient absorption.
2. C) Water reabsorption - The large intestine mainly reabsorbs water and electrolytes from remaining waste.
3. B) Liver - Bile is produced by the liver and stored in the gallbladder.
4. C) Pepsin and hydrochloric acid - Pepsin, activated by stomach acid, begins protein digestion in the stomach.
5. In the mouth, chewing breaks it into smaller pieces and salivary amylase starts converting starch to sugar Swallowing sends it through the esophagus via peristalsis In the stomach, acid and pepsin further break down proteins in the bread In the small intestine, pancreatic enzymes finish carbohydrate digestion and the sugars are absorbed into the blood
6. The stomach churns the fat with acid, but fat digestion mostly waits for the small intestine Bile from the liver (stored in the gallbladder) emulsifies the fat into small droplets Pancreatic lipase breaks the droplets into fatty acids and glycerol These are absorbed by cells lining the small intestine
7. Fiber passes through the stomach and small intestine largely undigested It reaches the large intestine, where gut bacteria ferment some of it Remaining water is absorbed in the colon The undigested residue is compacted and eliminated as feces
8. Wave-like muscle contractions that push food through the digestive tract.
9. The small intestine, especially through finger-like projections called villi.
10. Salivary amylase.

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