

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM FUNCTIONS

ORGAN / PART	PRIMARY FUNCTION
Mouth	Mechanical breakdown of food via chewing; initiation of chemical digestion via salivary amylase.
Esophagus	Peristalsis (muscular contractions) to transport food bolus from the throat to the stomach.
Stomach	Mixing food with gastric juices and enzymes to create chyme; protein digestion begins here.
Small Intestine	Primary site of chemical digestion and nutrient absorption into the bloodstream via villi.
Liver	Production of bile to emulsify fats; processing of nutrients absorbed from the small intestine.
Gallbladder	Storage and concentration of bile until it is needed in the small intestine.
Pancreas	Secretion of digestive enzymes and bicarbonate to neutralize stomach acid.
Large Intestine	Absorption of water and electrolytes; formation and storage of feces.

ORGAN / PART

PRIMARY FUNCTION

Rectum / Anus

Final storage of waste material and the voluntary/involuntary process of elimination.