

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM FUNCTIONS

Mouth	Mechanical breakdown of food via chewing; initiation of chemical digestion via salivary amylase.
Esophagus	Transports food bolus from the pharynx to the stomach using peristaltic contractions.
Stomach	Churns food into chyme; secretes gastric acid and pepsin for protein denaturation.
Small Intestine	Primary site of chemical digestion and nutrient absorption into the bloodstream.
Liver	Produces bile to emulsify fats; processes nutrients absorbed from the small intestine.
Gallbladder	Stores and concentrates bile produced by the liver, releasing it into the small intestine.
Pancreas	Secretes digestive enzymes (lipase, protease, amylase) and bicarbonates to neutralize stomach acid.
Large Intestine	Absorbs water and electrolytes; houses gut flora; forms and stores feces.

Rectum/Anus

Stores stool until defecation; controls the elimination of waste from the body.