

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM: ORGANS & FUNCTIONS

ORGAN	PRIMARY FUNCTION
Mouth	Mechanical breakdown of food via chewing and chemical digestion via salivary amylase.
Esophagus	Transports food from the pharynx to the stomach using rhythmic muscle contractions called peristalsis.
Stomach	Secretes acid and enzymes to digest food; churns food into a semi-liquid state called chyme.
Small Intestine	The primary site for nutrient absorption and completion of chemical digestion.
Liver	Produces bile to emulsify fats and processes nutrients absorbed from the small intestine.
Gallbladder	Stores and concentrates bile produced by the liver until needed for digestion.
Pancreas	Secretes digestive enzymes into the duodenum and produces hormones to regulate blood sugar.
Large Intestine	Absorbs water and electrolytes; converts undigested food into waste (feces).

ORGAN	PRIMARY FUNCTION
Rectum	Stores feces until they are expelled from the body.