

The human digestive system

Outstanding Science Year 4 - Animals, including humans - OS4B002

National Curriculum Statutory Requirements

4B1 - describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans

Learning Objective



I can explain how the human digestive system works.

Me:   

Teacher:   

The human digestive system

Humans and other animals need to eat in order to survive. We eat food, our bodies take out what we need from it, and we expel what is left as faeces (poo). The parts of our bodies that process our food make up our digestive system.

The mouth

The **mouth** is the first part of the digestive system. Our **incisors** (front teeth) cut our food, our **tongue** moves it around, and our **molars** (back teeth) crush and grind it. Our mouth produces **saliva** (spit) which softens the food. When we have chewed some food, we swallow it in the form of a **bolus**.

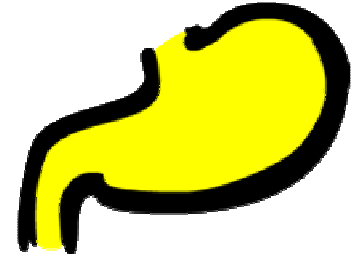


The oesophagus

The **oesophagus** is the second part of the digestive system. It is a pipe which pushes our food down towards our stomach by tightening behind it as it moves along. This pushing action is called **peristalsis** and it happens without us thinking about it.

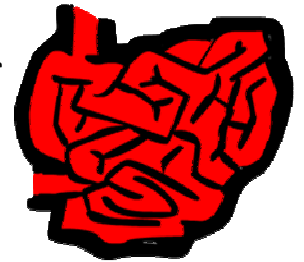
The stomach

The **stomach** is the third part of our digestive system. It contains strong **acids** which break down our food into a thick liquid called **chyme**. The strong acids help to kill some microorganisms in our food that can make us ill. The stomach can stretch and expand if it needs to hold more food.



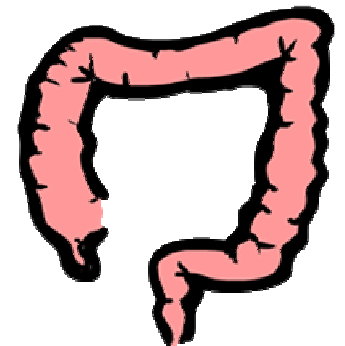
The small intestine

The **small intestine** is the fourth part of our digestive system. It is called the small intestine because it is thinner than the large intestine. It is a very long tube which is arranged with lots of bends so it fits inside our body. The small intestine is where many of the nutrients are removed and placed into the bloodstream.

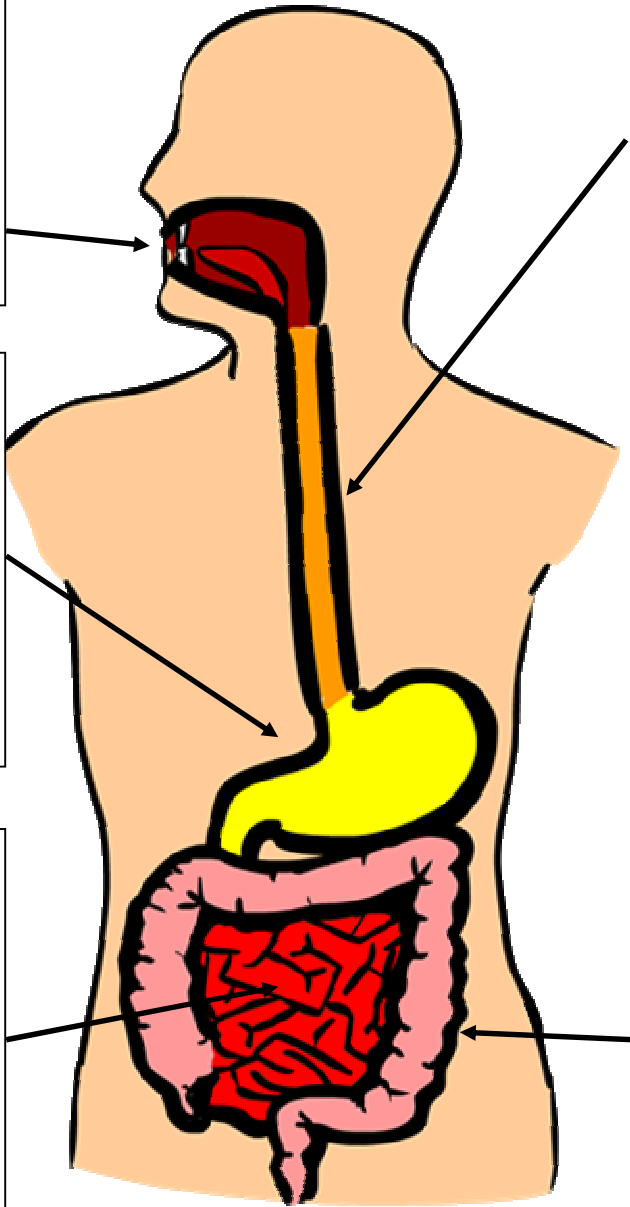


The large intestine

The **large intestine** is the last part of our digestive system. It is also known as the **colon**. In the large intestine, water is removed, leaving a brown material called **faeces** (poo). We can **expel** (get rid) of our faeces through our **rectum** (bottom).



The human digestive system



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Blank lined area for notes on the right side, top section.

Blank lined area for notes on the left side, middle section.

Blank lined area for notes on the right side, bottom section.

The food travels down this organ towards the stomach, through a process called peristalsis. The muscles of the organ tighten behind the food as it moves, pushing it along.

This organ is also known as the colon. Here, water is removed, leaving a more solid mass called faeces. This material is a waste product and is expelled through the rectum, which is the end of the digestive system.

This organ is a very long tube which is coiled up so that it fits in the body. It is here that much of the nutrients in our food are absorbed into the bloodstream.

This organ contains strong acid which breaks down the bolus and makes it easier to digest. This creates a thick liquid called chyme. The strong acid also kills some microorganisms.

A bite of food is taken by the incisor teeth. Food is chewed by the molar teeth and tongue and moistened by saliva to form a bolus, which is then swallowed.

The mouth

The oesophagus

The stomach

The small intestine

The large intestine

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