

The Digestive Tract

Components of:

1. MOUTH
2. ESOPHAGUS
3. STOMACH
4. SMALL INTESTINES
5. LARGE INTESTINES

TRACT = food actually travels through these organs!

a.k.a. = the Alimentary Canal

Accessory Organs:

1. Salivary Glands
2. Liver
3. Gall Bladder
4. Pancreas

these 3 are connected to the SMALL INTESTINE!

Food does not travel through them, but they do help with digestion!

(These organs send secretions to the sm. intest. to aid digestion)

Terms:

Digestion = chemical (enzyme) + mechanical (physical) **BREAKDOWN** of food into molecules small enough to be absorbed into BLOODSTREAM!

Ingestion = take into the body by swallowing.

Secretion = production of a substance (fluid), usually by a gland.
(ex: sweat, bile, saliva)

Absorption = movement of molecules across the intestinal wall into the **Bloodstream!**

Compaction = making of solid waste by removing water. (Water gets absorbed into the **bloodstream!**)

Defecation = release of solid waste into the environment.

(aka. Pooping) **FECES = POOP = BOWEL MOVEMENT**

The MOUTH

- Mechanical breakdown (teeth + tongue)
‡ chemical breakdown (saliva has an enzyme called **SALIVARY AMYLASE**, which digests STARCH. (**Chewing = MASTICATION**))

The ESOPHAGUS

- The "food tube". Food is swallowed, goes past the **PHARYNX** (throat area), and the **EPIGLOTTIS** (flap that covers the **TRACHEA** - so we don't breathe in our food). ↳ the wind pipe (it has rings of cartilage to keep it open)

- Food must be PUSTED through the esophagus by muscle contractions called PERISTALSIS.
- Organs of digestive tract are made of muscle tissue.
- The swallowed food + saliva is called the BOLUS.

