

# The Digestive System

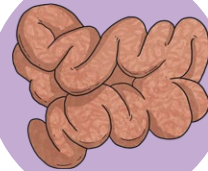


Digestion begins in the **mouth**. The **teeth** help break down the food into smaller pieces.

The **oesophagus** connects your mouth and your **stomach**. It has muscles in it that work in waves to move the food you have eaten down into your stomach.

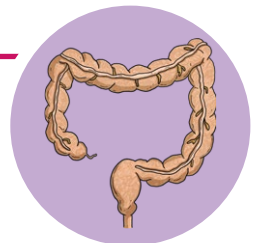


In the **stomach**, food is broken down by acids and enzymes. This broken-down substance is called chyme. The stomach connects to the **gall bladder**, **liver** and **pancreas**, which are other organs involved in the digestion process.



The **small intestine** breaks down the food mixture even more. This is so the body can absorb the vitamins, minerals, proteins, carbohydrates and fats it needs.

All the food material that is not needed passes through the **large intestine**. This is where any last water or minerals are absorbed into the blood.



The rest of the unwanted food prepares to leave the body as poo. It travels through to the **rectum**, where it stays until you go to the toilet.

