



## MOUTH & OESOPHAGUS

Teeth break down food into smaller particles which is then softened by saliva. The tongue shapes the food into a ball called a bolus which moves down the oesophagus by a series of wave like motions called peristalsis.



## STOMACH

Food is churned by the muscular action of the stomach wall where it is mixed with strong acidic fluids and some enzymes. When the food reaches an appropriate consistency it passes into the small intestine.



## SMALL INTESTINE

The duodenum is where the majority of digestion takes place. The presence of food stimulates the production of strong enzymes from the pancreas and bile from the liver and gall bladder.

Food moves into the jejunum and ileum, where nutrients are absorbed through finger like projections called villi. These villi are connected to a mass of capillaries that allow absorbed nutrients to pass into the blood.



## LARGE INTESTINE

Also known as the colon, the large intestine is approximately 1.5m long and 4-5cm in diameter. Water and minerals are absorbed here and stools are formed.



## RECTUM & ANUS

The waste that remains at the end of the digestive process is stored in the rectum and removed periodically by the anus.

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