

17. FUNCTIONS AND STRUCTURE OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

FUNCTIONS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

- ➔ Physically and chemically breaks down food into smaller pieces
- ➔ Moves digested food from the digestive tract into the circulatory system through the process of absorption
- ➔ Eliminates undigested food and waste products from the body

STRUCTURE OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

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| MOUTH | Contains teeth, which break food into smaller pieces by chewing (mastication), which allows food to be swallowed. |
| SALIVARY GLANDS | Secrete saliva, which begins the breakdown of carbohydrates and helps food to move down the throat. |
| TONGUE | Muscular organ that prepares food to be swallowed and contains the taste buds (sweet, sour, salty, and bitter). |
| ESOPHAGUS | Tube through which food passes in going from the pharynx to the stomach. |
| STOMACH | Muscular pouch in which food is stored and mixed with gastric juices to form chyme. |
| SMALL INTESTINE | Long tube extending from the stomach to the colon, which is the main site for the absorption of food. |
| LARGE INTESTINE | Tube located below the small intestine that removes water from undigested food and eliminates waste from the body. |

