

Alimentary Canal

Definitions

What is it ?

the whole passage along which food passes through the body from mouth to anus during digestion

Main regions

ingestion

taking of food and drink into the body through the mouth

mechanical digestion

breakdown of food into smaller pieces without chemical change

chemical digestion

breakdown of insoluble molecules into smaller, soluble molecules

absorption

movement of small food molecules and ions through the wall of the intestine into the blood

assimilation

movement of digested food molecules into the cells of the body where they are used

egestion

Callout

mouth

mechanical digestion : by teeth

chemical digestion : by the enzyme amylase

mechanical and chemical digestion takes place

initiate chemical digestion of carbohydrates using the enzyme amylase

salivary glands

produce saliva through a system of ducts

oesophagus

walls of the oesophagus contract, moving the food down to the stomach.

stomach

contains enzymes, for breaking down the food

produces a strong acid, killing many harmful microorganisms

small intestine

secretes digestive enzymes

the main site for the absorption of digested nutrients.

large intestine

contains bacteria that help in the absorption of nutrients

colon

the terminal part of the intestine

rectum

anus

end of the alimentary canal through which solid waste matter leaves the body