

Key questions

What happens to food in our bodies?
What are the organs of the digestive system and what are their functions?

Key scientists

Ivan Pavlov studied digestive system mechanisms.
Joseph Lister discovered antiseptics in the saliva.

Key Knowledge

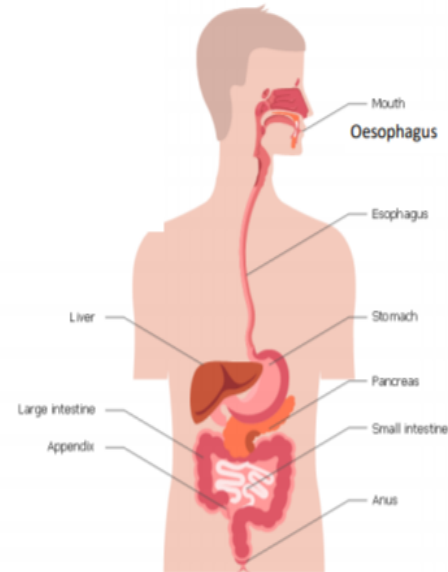
What I should already know

- All animals need water, air and food to survive.
- Animals get nutrition from what they eat.
- Humans and some animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement.
- What carnivores (meat eaters), herbivores (plant eaters) and omnivores (all eaters) are.

What I will know by the end of this unit

The Digestive System

- The smell of food triggers **saliva** to be produced.
- The **digestive** system begins with the mouth and teeth where food is **ingested** and chewed.
- **Saliva** is mixed with the food which helps to break it up.
- When the food is small enough to be swallowed, it is pushed down the **oesophagus** by **muscles** to the **stomach**.
- In the **stomach**, food is mixed further.
- The mixed food is then sent to the small **intestine** which **absorbs nutrients** from the food.
- Any leftover broken down food then moves on to the large **intestine**.
- The food minus the nutrients arrives in the rectum where **muscles** turn it into **faeces**. It is stored here until it is pushed out by the anus. This is called **excretion**.



Key vocabulary

Digestive system - consists of the parts of the body that work together to turn food and liquids into the building blocks and fuel that the body needs.

Digestion – the process of breaking down food into smaller parts to absorb the nutrients into the body.

Nutrient - substance used by an organism to survive, grow, and reproduce.

Absorb – to take in or soak up.

Excretion – the process of getting rid of waste products from the body.

Function – a purpose of a thing, an organ or even a person.

Useful web links

<http://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/interactives/science/teethandeating/> an informative site which will deepen the children's understanding of teeth.