

- The digestive system begins at the mouth, where food enters the body.
- 3 MAIN STRUCTURES:
 - The teeth
 - The tongue
 - The salivary glands

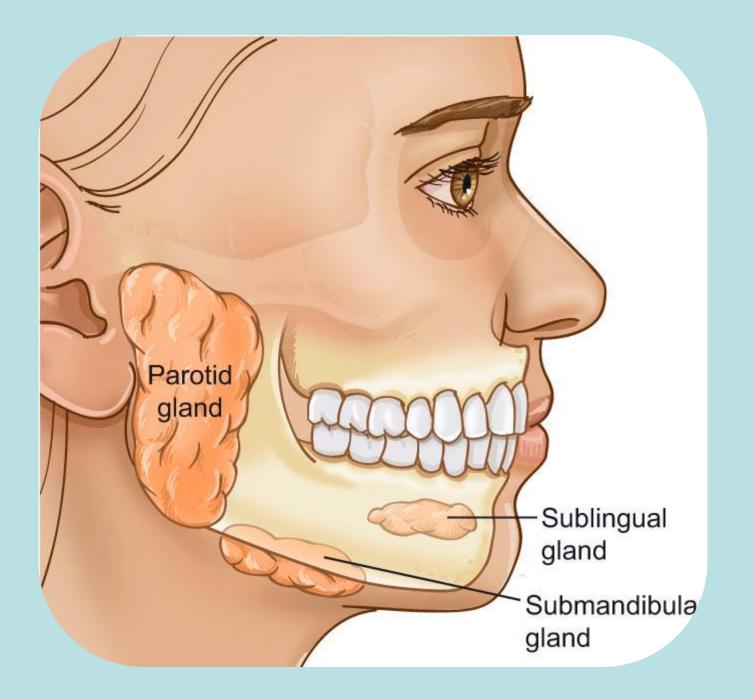


• The teeth are involved in breaking down food by chewing so that it can be swallowed. The biological term for chewing is mastication.

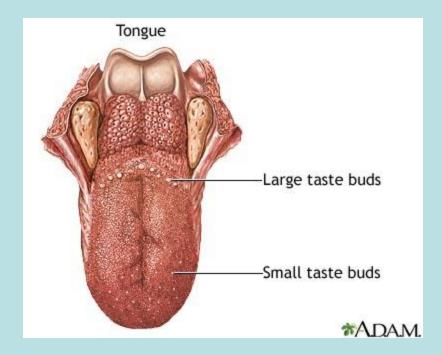




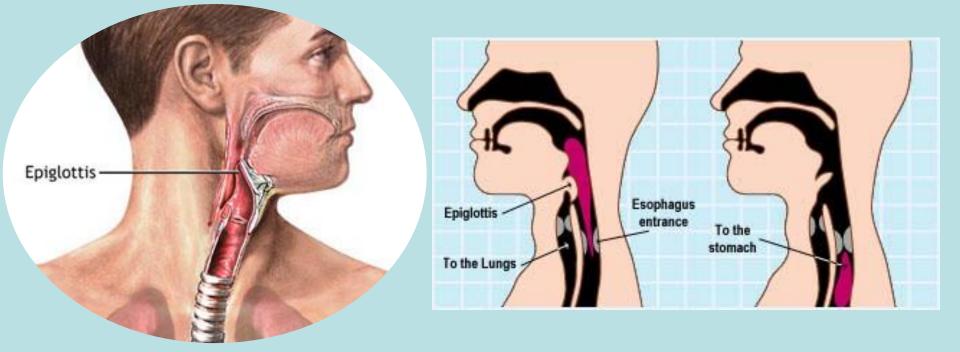
- The **salivary glands** release saliva which moistens your food to help you swallow.
- Saliva also contains an enzyme which helps break food down chemically.
- You have three pairs of salivary glands:
 - One pair at the sides of your face (below and in front of your ears)
 - One pair beneath the tongue
 - One pair beneath the floor of the oral cavity (mouth)



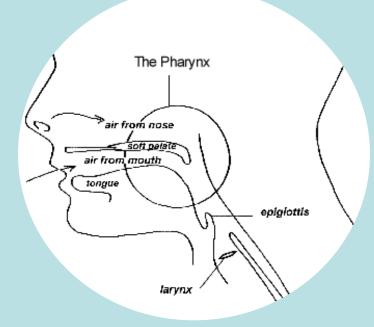
- The tongue mixes the chewed food with saliva.
- It then forms this mixture into a mass called a **bolus** (lump of chewed up food) in preparation for swallowing.

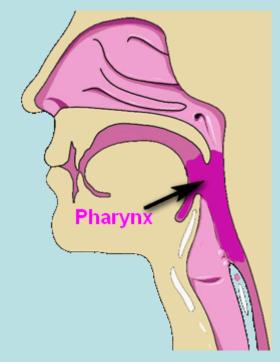


• The **epiglottis** is a flap of skin that covers the trachea when swallowing to prevent food from entering the respiratory system.

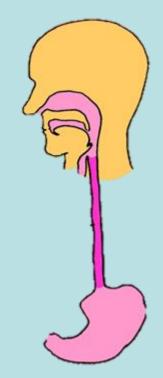


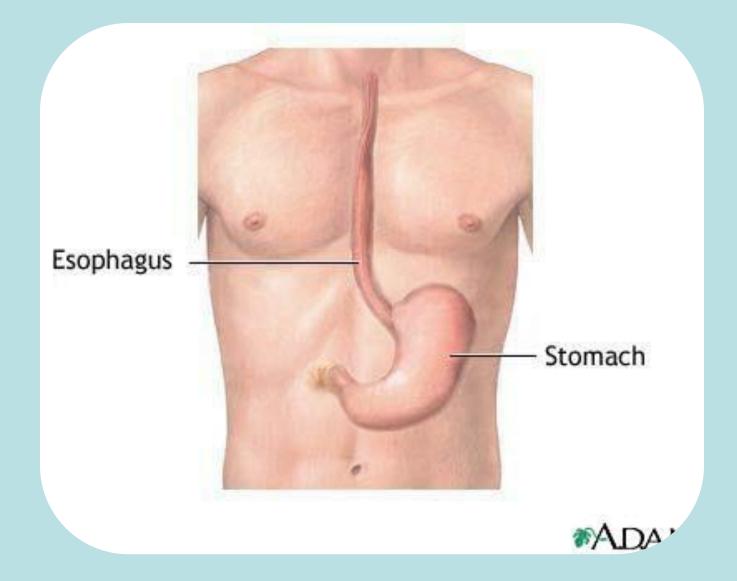
• The **pharynx** is a region that receives air from the nasal cavities and food from the mouth.



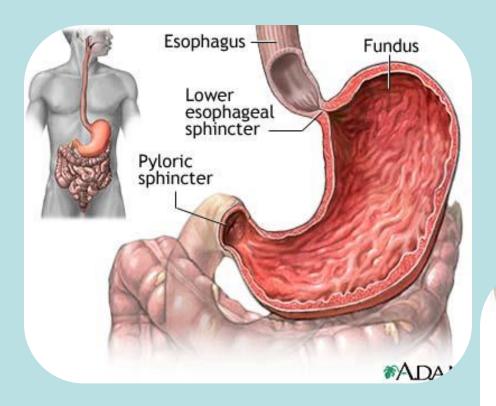


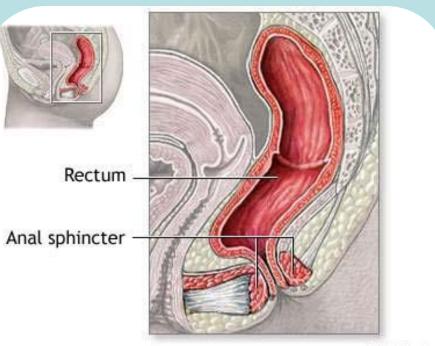
- The **esophagus** is a muscular tube that passes from the pharynx to the stomach.
- It is usually collapsed but it opens and receives the bolus when swallowing occurs.
- The esophagus undergoes muscular contractions (PERISTALSIS) that push the food down towards the stomach.





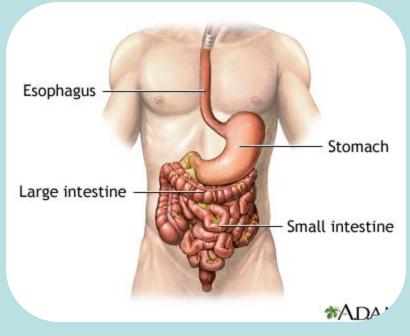
- <u>Sphincters</u> are rings of muscle that encircle tubes and act as valves, preventing materials from moving backwards through the digestive system.
- The cardiac sphincter (a.k.a lower esophageal sphincter) is found between the esophagus and the stomach.
- The **pyloric sphincter** is found between the stomach and small intestine.
- The **anal sphincter** is found between the rectum and anus.

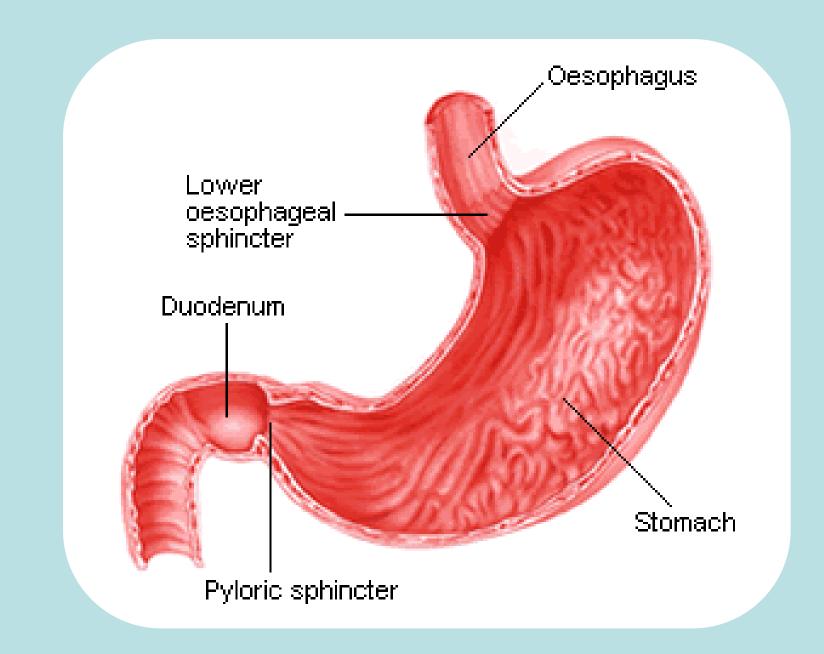




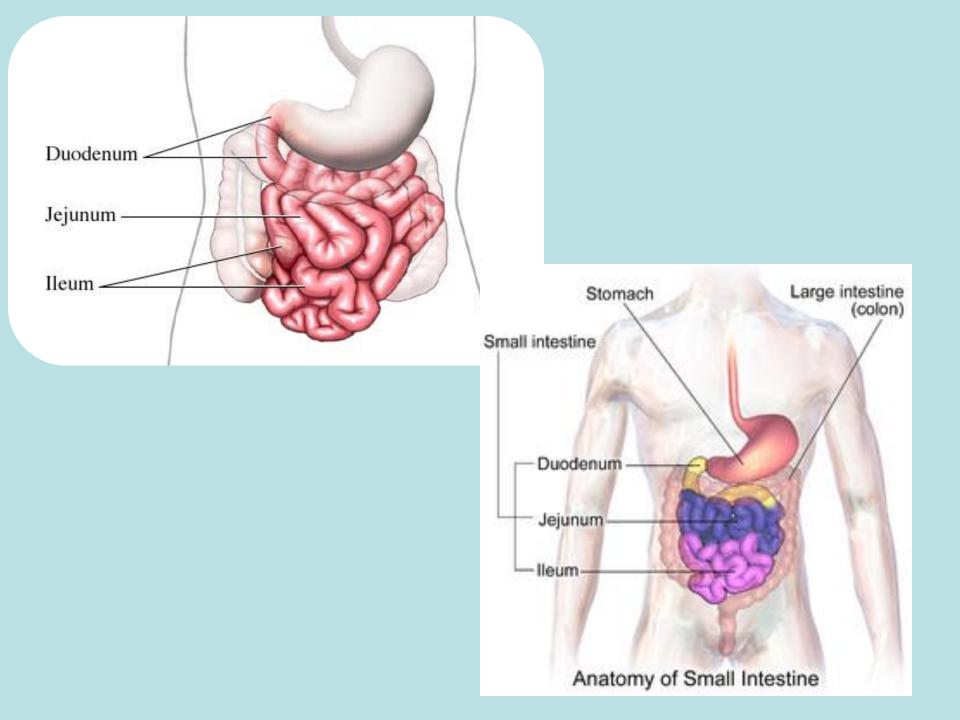
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- The **stomach** receives food from the esophagus, stores food, mixes food with its juices and moves food into the small intestine.
- The stomach walls contracts to churn the food, break it down and mix it with juices.
- The juices secreted by the glands in the stomach help to break down the food chemically. The juices also are very acidic which helps to kill any bacteria present in food.

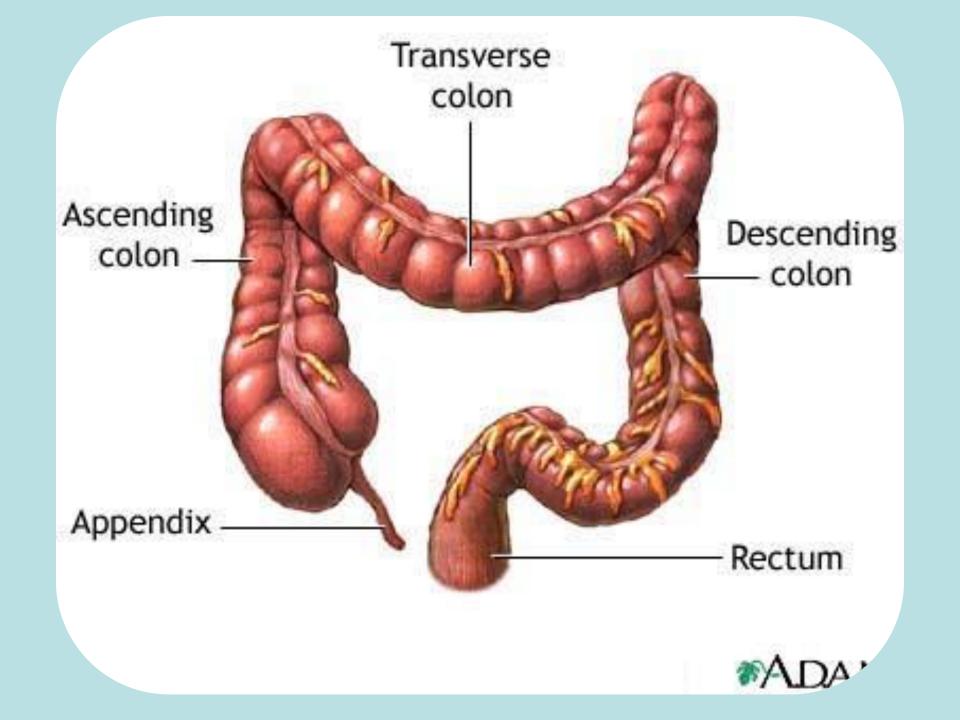




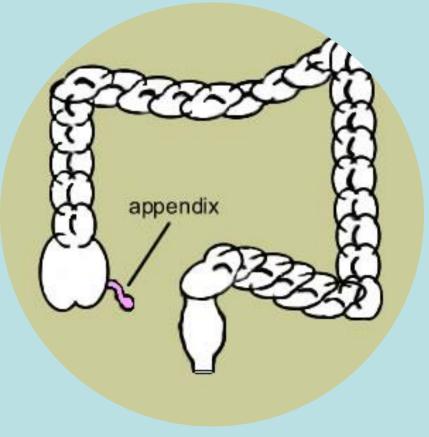
- The small intestine is small in diameter (compared to the large intestine) but long in length (18 feet long).
- The small intestine is responsible for breaking down the food even further chemically and for absorbing the nutrients from the food.
- The small intestine is divided into three sections:
 - The duodenum
 - The **jejunum**
 - The ileum



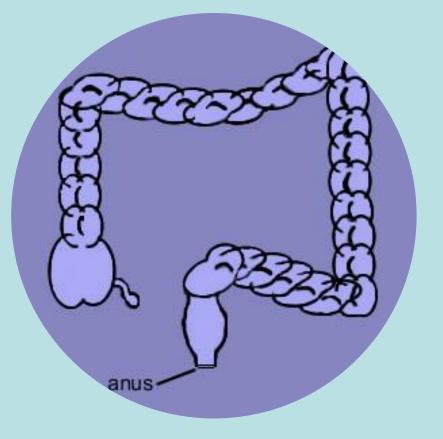
- The **large intestine** is large in diameter but short in length.
- It is responsible for absorbing water, salts and some vitamins from the food.
- It also stores *indigestible* material until it is eliminated at the anus.
- The large intestine is divided into three sections:
 - The cecum
 - The colon
 - The rectum



- The large intestine also has a small projection from the cecum known as the appendix.
- The appendix *may* play a role in fighting infection.



- The **anus** is the ending of the digestive system.
- This is where defecation occurs (the expulsion of feces).



THREE ACCESSORY ORGANS

Accessory Organs help with digestion but are **not** attached to the digestive tract.

1. The Pancreas

- Produces pancreatic juice which contains enzymes that help break down food chemically.
- 2. The Liver
 - Produces bile (helps to break down fat)
 - Stores excess glucose to help maintain blood glucose levels
- 3. The Gallbladder
 - Attached to the liver.
 - Stores the bile produced by the liver and secretes it into the duodenum.

