

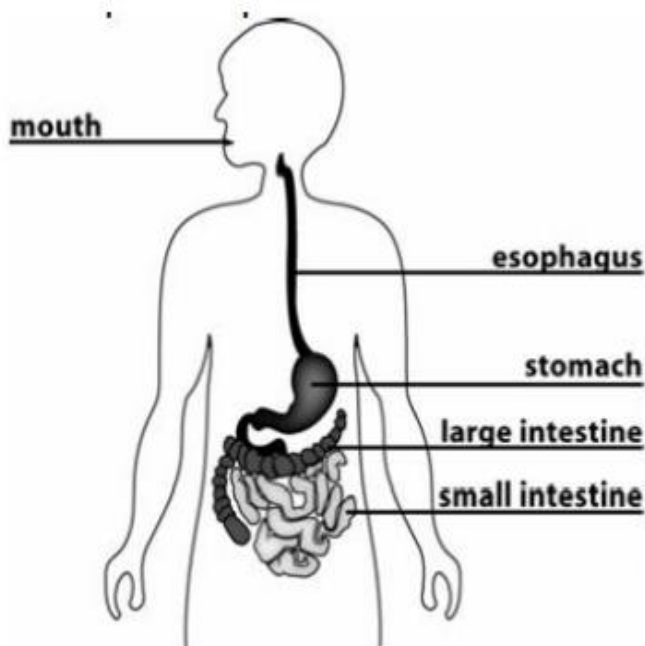
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM STUDY GUIDE

Why is the digestive system so important for the human body? It is vital for life because it breaks food into nutrients and moves the nutrients into the blood. The function of the digestive system is to process foods into a useable source of energy. Without the digestive system we would not get the energy we need for survival.

The major parts of the digestive system include the **MOUTH**, **ESOPHAGUS**, **STOMACH**, and **INTESTINES**.

- **Mouth:** Digestion begins in the mouth. Food is first broken down by saliva and chewing in our mouth.
- **Esophagus:** Then the esophagus muscles move food and liquid into the stomach. This involuntary movement is called peristalsis.
- **Stomach:** Acids and churning in the stomach continue the process of digestion.
- **Small Intestine:** The longest organ of the digestive system is the small intestine.
- **Large Intestine:** This is where the waste products that are not absorbed in the small intestine are stored.

The digestive system is one of the systems of the body. Each part of the digestive system has an important job to do so the body can get nutrients from food. Here are the five major organs of this system:



Function of each organ in the digestive process:

First, the mouth has teeth to break food into pieces, and saliva to start to break down food chemicals. Then, the esophagus is a muscular tube that pushes food down to the stomach. The stomach has acid and movements that help to break down food. Then food goes to the small intestine, where chemicals break down food into nutrients and sugar for energy. The small intestine also has special cells that absorb what is needed. The large intestine is larger and stores leftover materials until they leave the body.