

# Digestive System

The digestive system breaks food down to tiny molecules that can be absorbed into the bloodstream and distributed to cells.

**1. salivary glands:** glands in the cheeks and under the tongue which produce saliva to moisten food as it is chewed. Salivary glands also secrete enzymes which break down starches in the mouth.

**2. esophagus:** muscular tube which creates peristaltic waves to carry swallowed food from the throat to the stomach.

**3. stomach:** muscular organ which churns food and secretes enzymes and acids for food digestion.

**4. small intestine:** hollow tract where chemical digestion continues and nutrients are absorbed into the bloodstream.

**5. pancreas:** organ which secretes enzymes for starch and protein digestion into the small intestine.

**6. liver:** organ which processes digested food into useful substances for the body, secretes bile for fat digestion, and removes toxins from the blood

**7. gall bladder:** storage sac for bile located on the lower surface of the liver.

**8. colon:** main part of the large intestine which absorbs water from indigestible food.

**9. rectum:** final section of the large intestine which eliminates waste material from the body.

