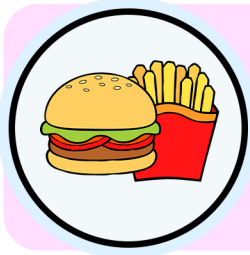
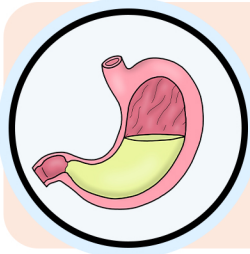


FUNCTIONS OF THE STOMACH



STORES SWALLOWED FOOD

The stomach holds and temporarily **stores** food, which arrives from the esophagus.



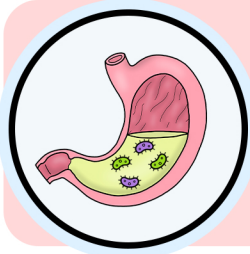
MIXES FOOD WITH GASTRIC JUICE

Muscle walls of the stomach contract and churn to mix food with highly acidic **gastric juice**.



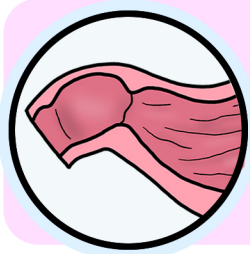
BREAKS DOWN FOOD INTO CHYME

The stomach chemically and mechanically breaks down food, reducing it to a semi-liquid mixture called **chyme**.



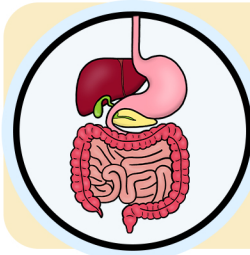
KILLS HARMFUL GERMS WITH ACID

Strong stomach **acid**, a part of the **gastric juice**, destroys many harmful germs that may be present in consumed food.



CONTROLS FOOD RELEASE INTO THE SMALL INTESTINE

The stomach **regulates** the flow of processed food as it passes from the stomach into the first part of the small intestine.



WORKS TO MOVE FOOD ALONG

Along with the esophagus and small intestine, the stomach helps **transport** food throughout the digestive tract.

