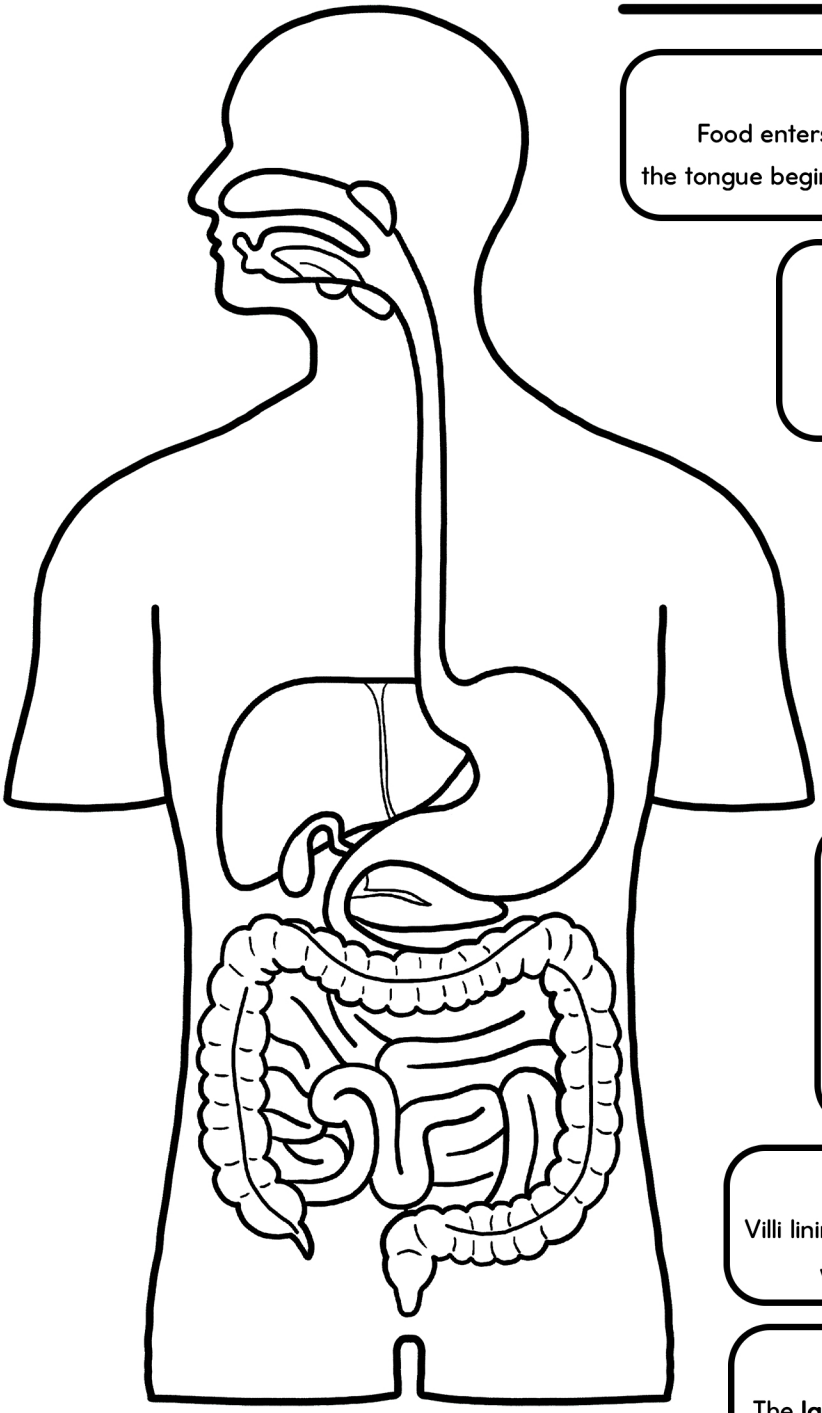
FUNCTIONS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM



TAKES IN FOOD

Food enters the body through the **mouth**, where teeth and the tongue begin to break it into a soft bolus that can be swallowed.

MOVES FOOD

Waves of muscle squeezing called peristalsis push food through the **esophagus** and intestines, one section at a time.

CRUSHES AND CHURNS FOOD

Teeth grind food and the **stomach** churns it, breaking food into smaller pieces without changing what it is made of.

BREAKS DOWN MOLECULES

Enzymes from the **salivary glands**, **stomach**, and **pancreas** break large food molecules into small nutrient molecules. Most of this work is finished in the small intestine.

ABSORBS NUTRIENTS

Villi lining the **small intestine** pass nutrients into capillaries, where blood carries them to the body's cells.

ELIMINATES WASTE

The **large intestine** absorbs water from leftover food and forms feces, which leave the body through the anus.

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