

Digestive system

Worksheet 3 Teacher's notes

abdomen - the part of the body that contains the digestive organs. In human beings, this is between the diaphragm and the pelvis

appendix - a small sac located on the cecum.

bile - a digestive chemical that is produced in the liver, stored in the gall bladder, and secreted into the small intestine.

cecum - the first part of the large intestine; the appendix is connected to the cecum.

chyme - food in the stomach that is partly digested and mixed with stomach acids. Chyme goes on to the small intestine for further digestion.

digestive system - (also called the gastrointestinal tract or GI tract) the system of the body that processes food and gets rid of waste.

gall bladder - a small, sac-like organ located by the duodenum. It stores and releases bile (a digestive chemical which is produced in the liver) into the small intestine.

gastrointestinal tract - (also called the GI tract or digestive system) the system of the body that processes food and gets rid of waste.

intestines - the part of the alimentary canal located between the stomach and the anus.

liver - a large organ located above and in front of the stomach. It filters toxins from the blood, and makes bile (which breaks down fats) and some blood proteins.

mouth - the first part of the digestive system, where food enters the body. Chewing and salivary enzymes in the mouth are the beginning of the digestive process (breaking down the food).

pancreas - an enzyme-producing gland located below the stomach and above the intestines. Enzymes from the pancreas help in the digestion of carbohydrates, fats and proteins in the small intestine.

peristalsis - rhythmic muscle movements that force food in the esophagus from the throat into the stomach. Peristalsis is involuntary - you cannot control it. It is also what allows you to eat and drink while upside-down.

rectum - the lower part of the large intestine, where feces are stored before they are excreted.

sigmoid colon - the part of the large intestine between the descending colon and the rectum.

stomach - a sack-like, muscular organ that is attached to the esophagus. Both chemical and mechanical digestion takes place in the stomach. When food enters the stomach, it is churned in a bath of acids and enzymes.