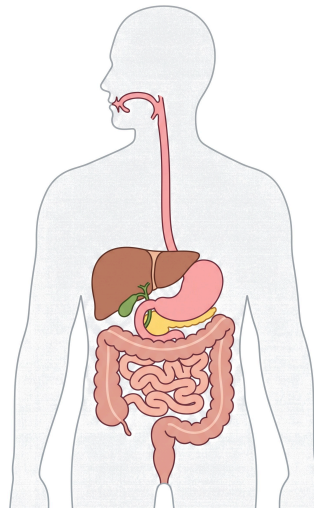


Digestive System

How the body breaks down food



7

printable sheets

17

pages

All

answer keys included

Digestive System Teaching Pack

How the body breaks down food

How to use this pack. The sheets are in a suggested teaching order: show the labeled diagram, have students label the blank one, then work through the practice sheets and finish with the quiz. Use them all over a week or pick the ones you need. The answer keys are together at the back.

What is inside

1. Teach

Digestive System Diagram	3
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2. Label

Blank Digestive System	4
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7. Check

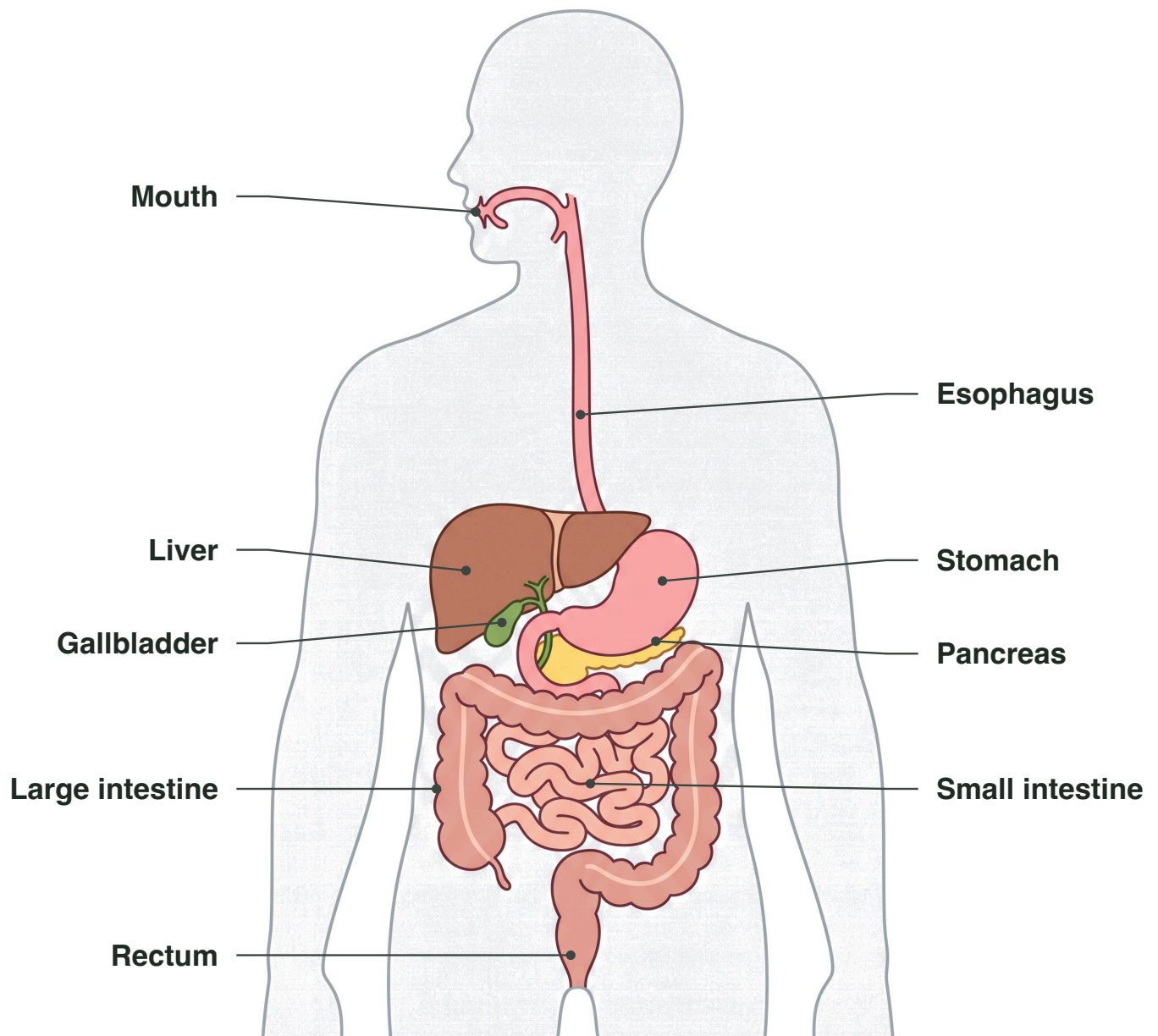
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More free teaching packs. Skeletal System, Muscular System, Respiratory System, Heart and Circulation, Excretory System, Nervous System and Brain, Eye and Ear, Endocrine System, Immune System and more at printablescholar.com/teaching-packs/

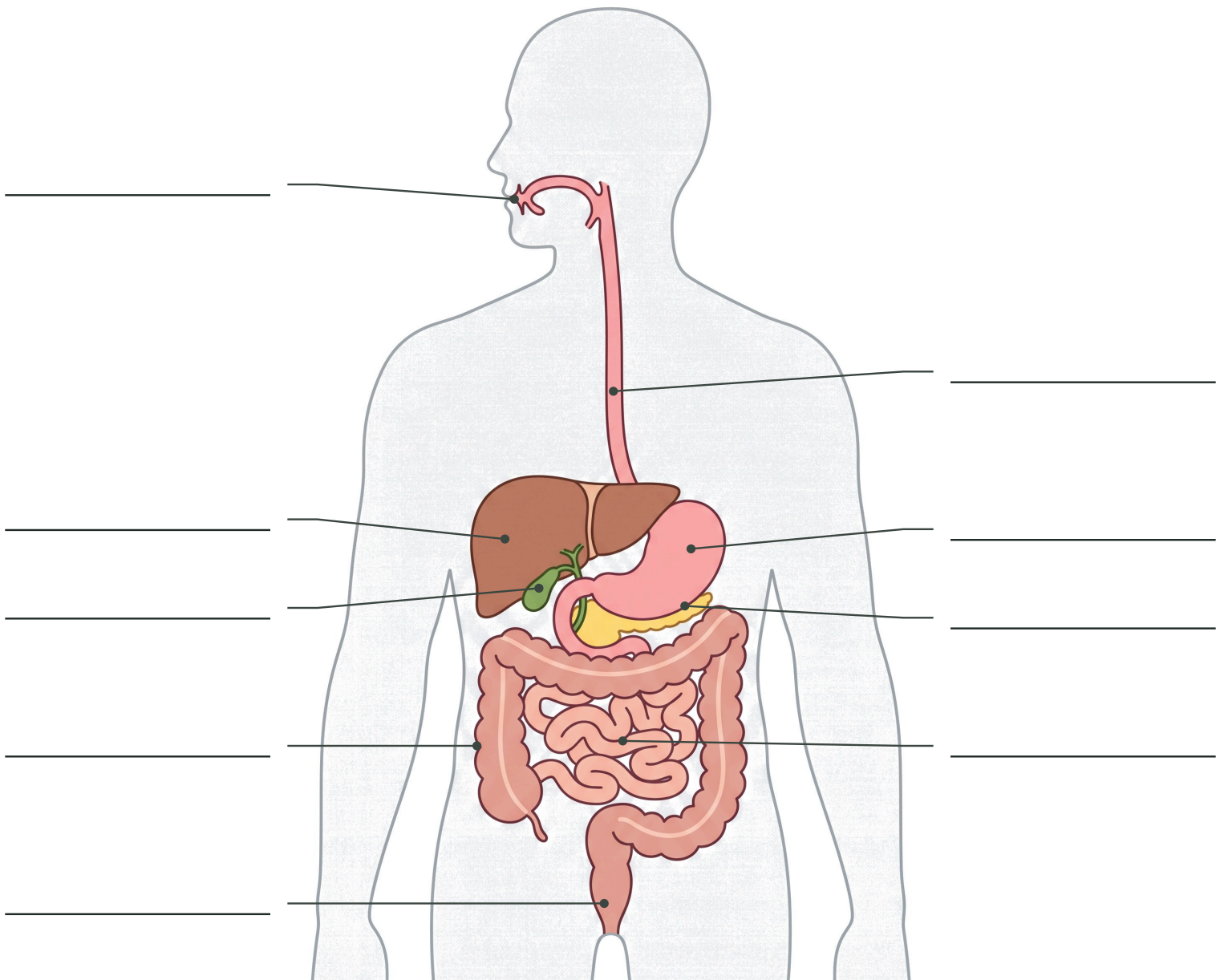
The Digestive System



The Digestive System

Name: _____

Write the name of each part on its line. Use the word bank.



Word bank

Esophagus

Gallbladder

Large intestine

Liver

Mouth

Pancreas

Rectum

Small intestine

Stomach

Organs of the Digestive System

Use the labeled digestive system diagram to help you.

Part A. Write the part that does each job.

Word bank

Esophagus

Gallbladder

Large intestine

Liver

Mouth

Pancreas

Rectum

Small intestine

Stomach

1. Strong muscles churn food with acid into a thick liquid here. _____
2. It makes bile, a fluid that helps digest fats. _____
3. Teeth and saliva begin breaking food down here. _____
4. It absorbs water from the leftovers and forms solid waste. _____
5. It releases juices that help break down food. _____
6. A muscular tube that pushes food down from the throat. _____
7. It stores solid waste until it leaves the body. _____
8. The long, coiled tube where most nutrients pass into the blood. _____
9. A small sac that stores bile until it is needed. _____

Part B. Answer the questions.

1. Food never passes through three of these organs. Which three?

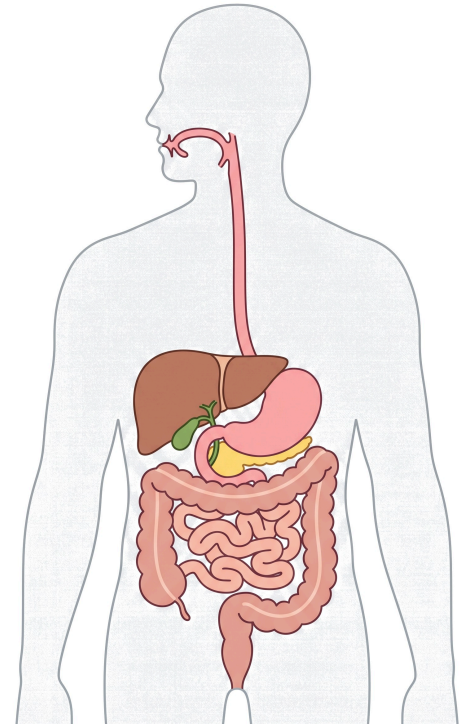
2. Bile is made in one organ and stored in another. Name both.

3. Why does it help to chew your food well before you swallow?

The Journey of Your Food

Read the text. Then answer the questions on the next page.

- ① Your body cannot use a sandwich the way it is. First the food must be broken down into **nutrients**, pieces small enough to pass into your blood. Breaking food down is called **digestion**, and it is the job of the **digestive system**. Food moves through one long tube that begins at the mouth. The whole trip usually takes a day or more.
- ② Digestion starts in the **mouth**. Your teeth grind food into small pieces. **Saliva** wets the food and begins to break it down. When you swallow, the food enters the **esophagus**. This muscular tube squeezes in waves to push the food down to the stomach.
- ③ The **stomach** is a stretchy bag with strong muscles. It churns the food and mixes it with acid until the food becomes a thick liquid. Over a few hours the stomach lets this liquid into the small intestine a little at a time.
- ④ Most digestion happens in the **small intestine**. Three helper organs go to work here, though food never passes through them. The **liver** makes **bile**, a fluid that helps digest fats. The **gallbladder** stores the bile until it is needed. The **pancreas** releases juices that help break down food. When the food is fully broken down, the nutrients pass through the wall of the small intestine into the blood. The blood carries them to every part of the body.
- ⑤ What is left moves into the **large intestine**. It is mostly water and material the body cannot digest. The large intestine absorbs water from these leftovers, and they become solid waste. The **rectum** stores the waste until it leaves the body. The journey is over.



The digestive system. The brown organ is the liver.

The Journey of Your Food: Questions

Go back to the text to find each answer. The paragraphs are numbered to help you.

1. What is this text mostly about?

- ☐ Which foods are healthy to eat
- ☐ How the body breaks down food, step by step
- ☐ How blood moves around the body
- ☐ Why people get hungry

2. How does the esophagus move food down to the stomach?

3. What is food like when it leaves the stomach?

- ☐ Small dry pieces
- ☐ Solid waste
- ☐ A thick liquid
- ☐ The same as when it was swallowed

4. Number the parts 1, 2 and 3 in the order food reaches them.

☐

Small intestine

☐

Esophagus

☐

Stomach

5. Which organ stores bile until it is needed?

- ☐ The liver
- ☐ The pancreas
- ☐ The stomach
- ☐ The gallbladder

6. What happens to nutrients in the small intestine?

7. What does the large intestine do?

- ☐ It mixes food with acid.
- ☐ It makes bile.
- ☐ It absorbs water from the leftovers.
- ☐ It grinds food into small pieces.

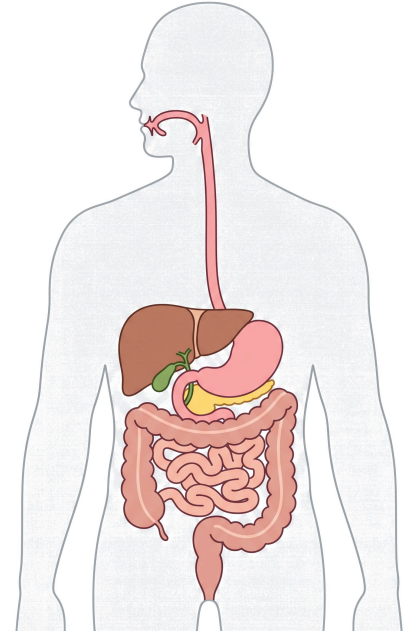
8. Why does the text call the liver, gallbladder and pancreas “helper organs”?

The Path of Food

These steps of digestion are mixed up. Think about where food goes first, next and last.

Part A. Number the steps from 1 to 7.

- ☐ In the mouth, teeth grind the food and saliva wets it.
- ☐ The stomach churns the food with acid into a thick liquid.
- ☐ The esophagus squeezes the food down to the stomach.
- ☐ Once the food is fully broken down, nutrients pass through the wall of the small intestine into the blood.
- ☐ The thick liquid enters the small intestine. Bile and juices from the pancreas break it down further.
- ☐ The large intestine absorbs water from the leftovers.
- ☐ The rectum stores solid waste until it leaves the body.



Part B. Answer the questions.

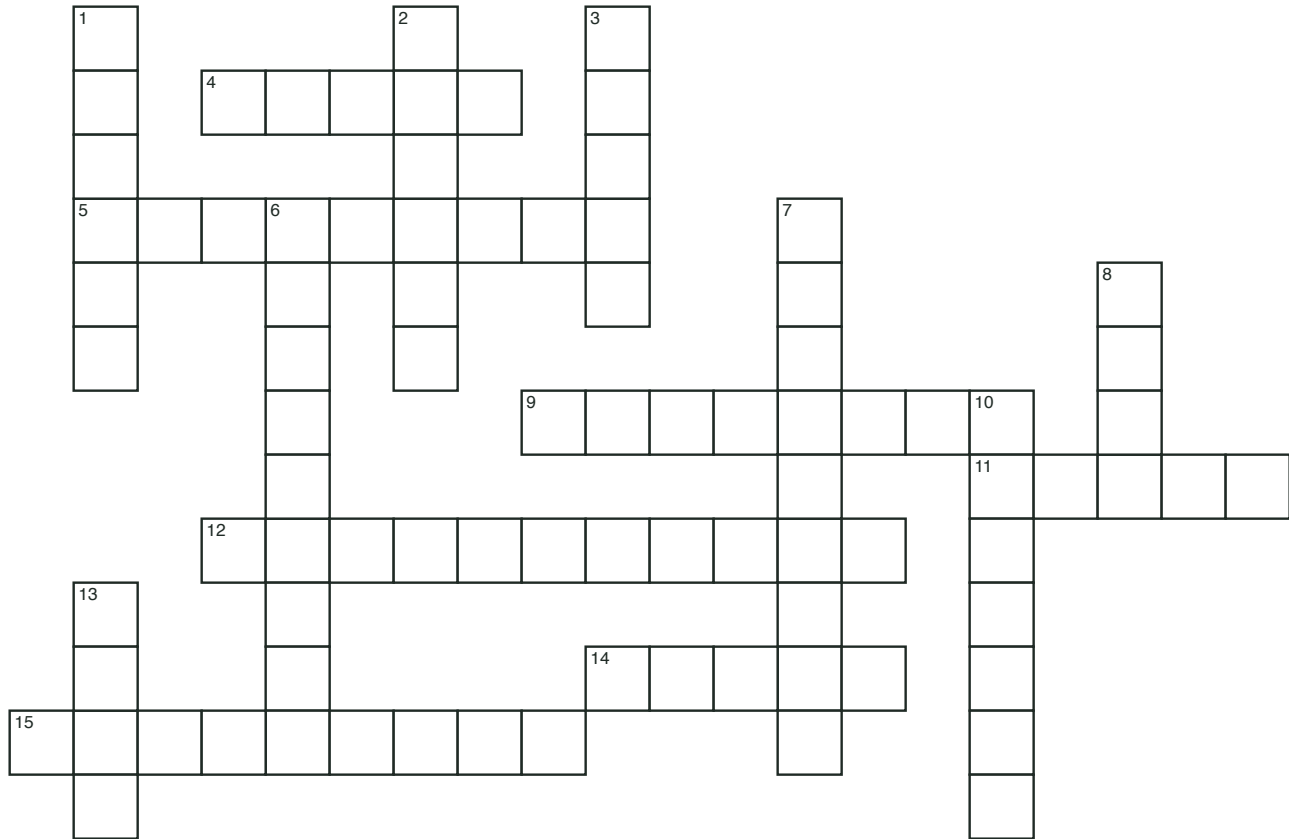
1. In which organ do nutrients pass into the blood?

2. Where does bile come from, and what does it do?

3. What would the waste be like if the large intestine did not absorb water?

Digestive System Crossword

Read each clue. Write the answer in the puzzle, one letter in each box. Use the word bank if you get stuck.



ACROSS

4. What the large intestine absorbs from the leftovers.
5. The small _____ is where most nutrients pass into the blood.
9. It releases juices that help break down food.
11. They grind food into small pieces.
12. A small sac that stores bile until it is needed.
14. Where digestion begins.
15. Breaking food down so the body can use it.

DOWN

1. The liquid in your mouth that wets food.
2. It stores solid waste until it leaves the body.
3. The organ that makes bile.
6. The muscular tube that pushes food down to the stomach.
7. The useful pieces of food that pass into the blood.
8. A fluid that helps digest fats.
10. A stretchy bag that churns food into a thick liquid.
13. The stomach mixes food with this.

Word bank

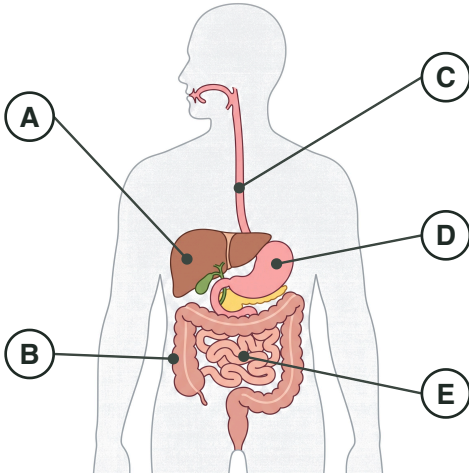
acid bile digestion esophagus gallbladder intestine liver mouth
 nutrients pancreas rectum saliva stomach teeth water

Digestive System Quiz

Score _____ / 13

Show what you know about the digestive system.

Part A. This is the digestive system. Write the name of each part.



A _____

B _____

C _____

D _____

E _____

Esophagus · Large intestine · Liver · Small intestine · Stomach

Part B. Choose the best answer.

1. Where does digestion begin?

- ☐ Stomach
- ☐ Mouth
- ☐ Esophagus
- ☐ Liver

2. What does the liver make?

- ☐ Acid
- ☐ Saliva
- ☐ Bile
- ☐ Urine

3. Where do most nutrients pass into the blood?

- ☐ Stomach
- ☐ Large intestine
- ☐ Rectum
- ☐ Small intestine

4. What does the large intestine absorb from the leftovers?

- ☐ Water
- ☐ Bile
- ☐ Acid
- ☐ Saliva

5. Which organ stores bile?

- ☐ Pancreas
- ☐ Rectum
- ☐ Gallbladder
- ☐ Esophagus

6. What does the stomach mix food with?

- ☐ Bile
- ☐ Acid
- ☐ Blood
- ☐ Solid waste

Part C. Write your answer.

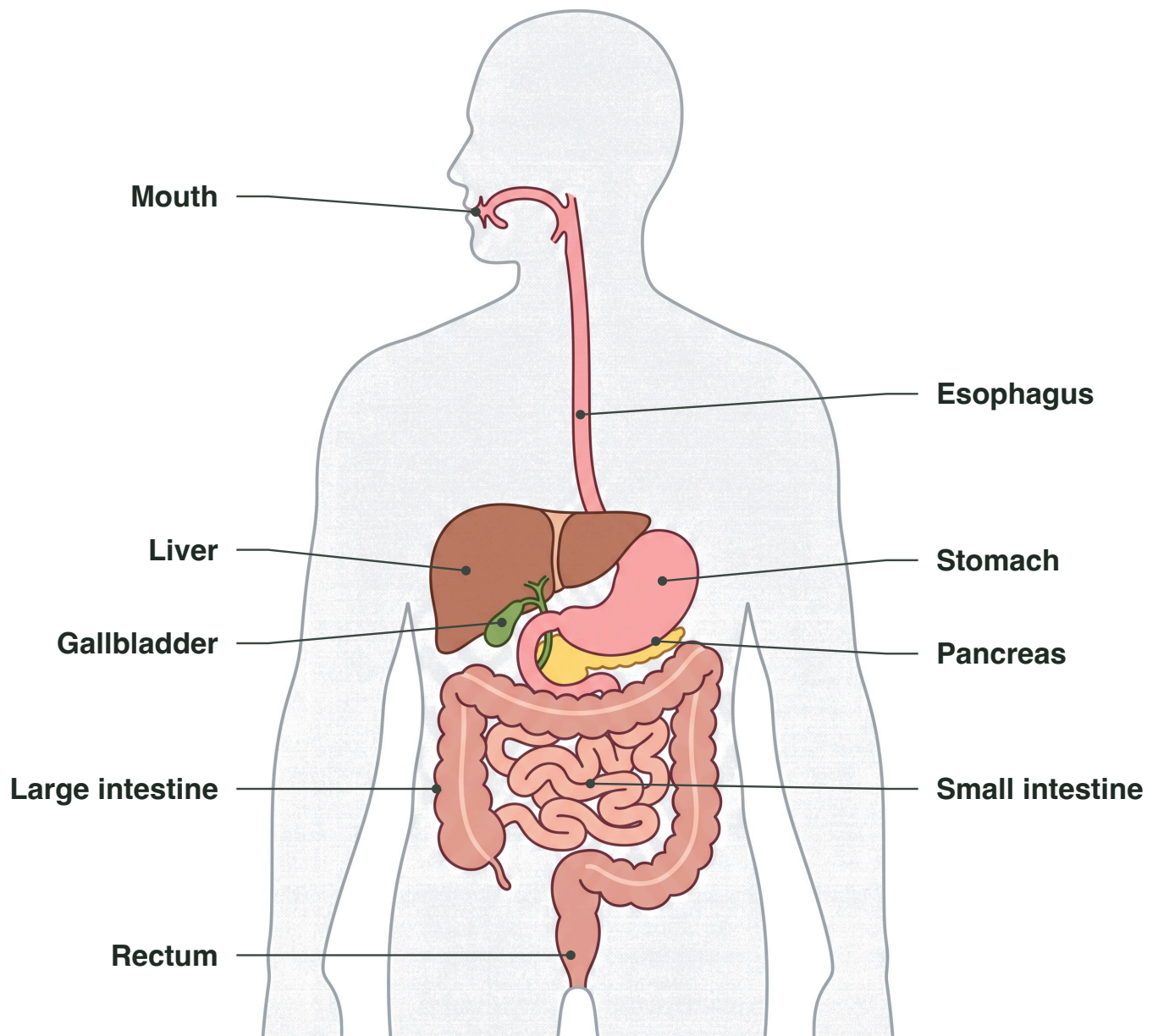
7. List the parts food passes through, in order, from the mouth to the rectum.

8. What does the esophagus do?

Answer Keys

In the same order as the sheets.

The Digestive System: Answer Key



Organs of the Digestive System: Answer Key

Answers are in green. Written answers will vary; these are examples.

Part A. Write the part that does each job.

Word bank Esophagus Gallbladder Large intestine Liver Mouth Pancreas Rectum
Small intestine Stomach

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Strong muscles churn food with acid into a thick liquid here. | Stomach |
| 2. It makes bile, a fluid that helps digest fats. | Liver |
| 3. Teeth and saliva begin breaking food down here. | Mouth |
| 4. It absorbs water from the leftovers and forms solid waste. | Large intestine |
| 5. It releases juices that help break down food. | Pancreas |
| 6. A muscular tube that pushes food down from the throat. | Esophagus |
| 7. It stores solid waste until it leaves the body. | Rectum |
| 8. The long, coiled tube where most nutrients pass into the blood. | Small intestine |
| 9. A small sac that stores bile until it is needed. | Gallbladder |

Part B. Answer the questions.

- Food never passes through three of these organs. Which three?
The liver, the gallbladder and the pancreas.
- Bile is made in one organ and stored in another. Name both.
The liver makes bile. The gallbladder stores it.
- Why does it help to chew your food well before you swallow?
Chewing grinds food into small pieces. Small pieces are easier for the rest of the digestive system to break down.

The Journey of Your Food: Answer Key

Answers are in green. Written answers will vary; these are examples.

1. What is this text mostly about?

- ☐ Which foods are healthy to eat
- ☒ **How the body breaks down food, step by step**
- ☐ How blood moves around the body
- ☐ Why people get hungry

2. How does the esophagus move food down to the stomach?

It squeezes in waves to push the food down.

3. What is food like when it leaves the stomach?

- ☐ Small dry pieces
- ☐ Solid waste
- ☒ **A thick liquid**
- ☐ The same as when it was swallowed

4. Number the parts 1, 2 and 3 in the order food reaches them.

- 3** Small intestine
- 1** Esophagus
- 2** Stomach

5. Which organ stores bile until it is needed?

- ☐ The liver
- ☐ The pancreas
- ☐ The stomach
- ☒ **The gallbladder**

6. What happens to nutrients in the small intestine?

They pass through its wall into the blood, which carries them around the body.

7. What does the large intestine do?

- ☐ It mixes food with acid.
- ☐ It makes bile.
- ☒ **It absorbs water from the leftovers.**
- ☐ It grinds food into small pieces.

8. Why does the text call the liver, gallbladder and pancreas “helper organs”?

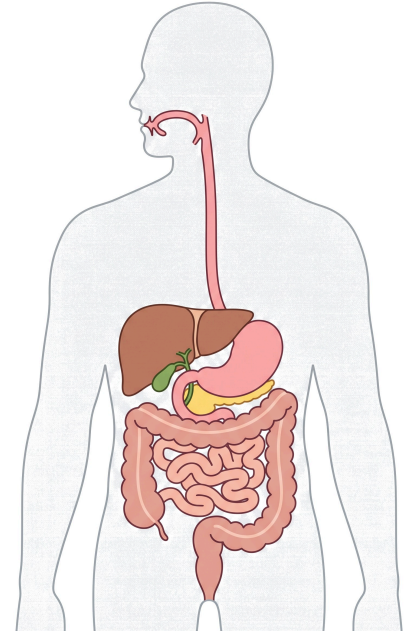
Food never passes through them, but they make or store the bile and juices that help break it down.

The Path of Food: Answer Key

Answers are in green. Written answers will vary; these are examples.

Part A. Number the steps from 1 to 7.

- 1** In the mouth, teeth grind the food and saliva wets it.
- 3** The stomach churns the food with acid into a thick liquid.
- 2** The esophagus squeezes the food down to the stomach.
- 5** Once the food is fully broken down, nutrients pass through the wall of the small intestine into the blood.
- 4** The thick liquid enters the small intestine. Bile and juices from the pancreas break it down further.
- 6** The large intestine absorbs water from the leftovers.
- 7** The rectum stores solid waste until it leaves the body.



Part B. Answer the questions.

1. In which organ do nutrients pass into the blood?

The small intestine.

2. Where does bile come from, and what does it do?

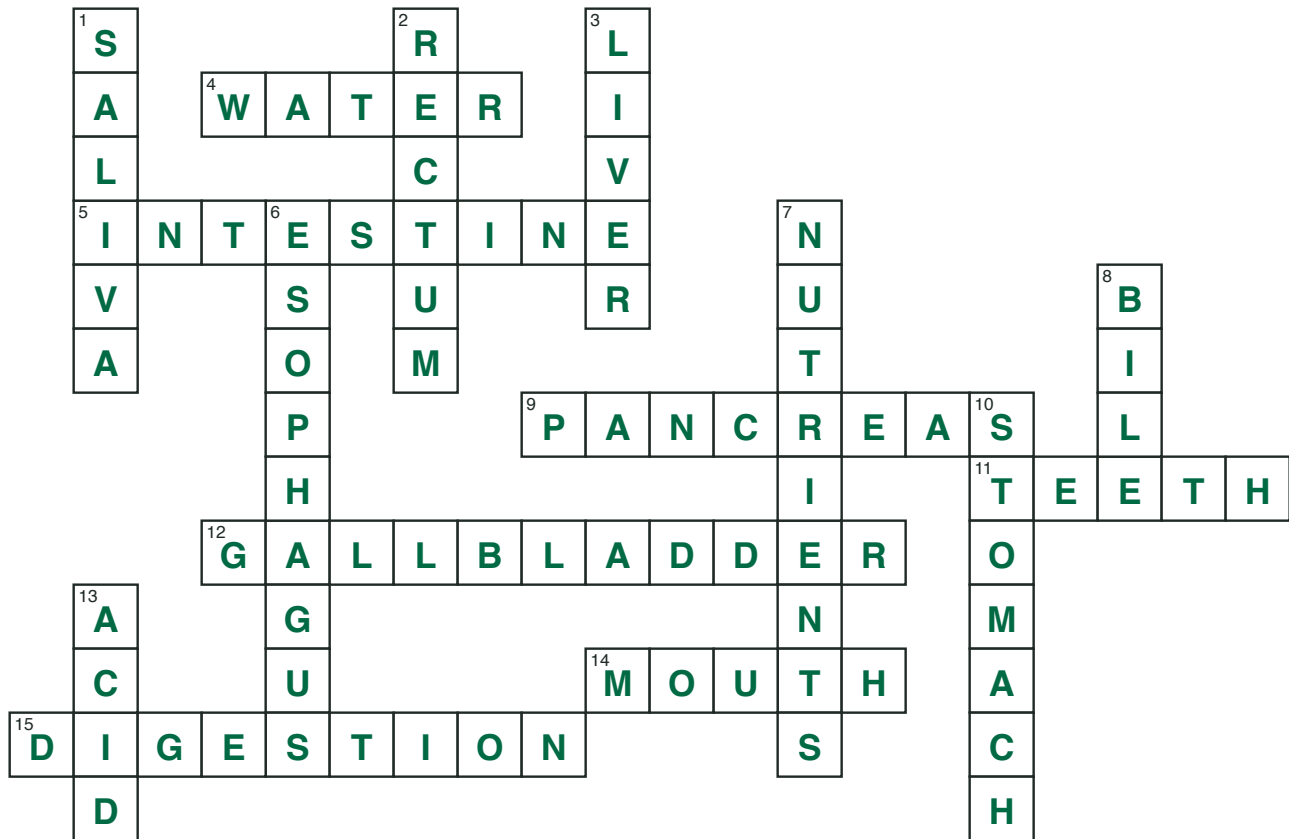
The liver makes it and the gallbladder stores it. Bile helps digest fats.

3. What would the waste be like if the large intestine did not absorb water?

It would be watery instead of solid, and the body would lose water it needs.

Digestive System Crossword: Answer Key

Answers are in green.



ACROSS

4. What the large intestine absorbs from the leftovers.
5. The small _____ is where most nutrients pass into the blood.
9. It releases juices that help break down food.
11. They grind food into small pieces.
12. A small sac that stores bile until it is needed.
14. Where digestion begins.
15. Breaking food down so the body can use it.

DOWN

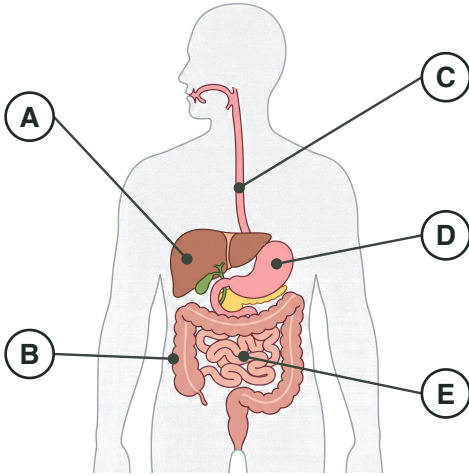
1. The liquid in your mouth that wets food.
2. It stores solid waste until it leaves the body.
3. The organ that makes bile.
6. The muscular tube that pushes food down to the stomach.
7. The useful pieces of food that pass into the blood.
8. A fluid that helps digest fats.
10. A stretchy bag that churns food into a thick liquid.
13. The stomach mixes food with this.

Word bank acid bile digestion esophagus gallbladder intestine liver mouth
nutrients pancreas rectum saliva stomach teeth water

Digestive System Quiz: Answer Key

Answers are in green. Written answers will vary; these are examples.

Part A. This is the digestive system. Write the name of each part.



A **Liver**

B **Large intestine**

C **Esophagus**

D **Stomach**

E **Small intestine**

Esophagus · Large intestine · Liver · Small intestine · Stomach

Part B. Choose the best answer.

1. Where does digestion begin?

- ☐ Stomach
- ☒ **Mouth**
- ☐ Esophagus
- ☐ Liver

2. What does the liver make?

- ☐ Acid
- ☐ Saliva
- ☒ **Bile**
- ☐ Urine

3. Where do most nutrients pass into the blood?

- ☐ Stomach
- ☐ Large intestine
- ☐ Rectum
- ☒ **Small intestine**

4. What does the large intestine absorb from the leftovers?

- ☒ **Water**
- ☐ Bile
- ☐ Acid
- ☐ Saliva

5. Which organ stores bile?

- ☐ Pancreas
- ☐ Rectum
- ☒ **Gallbladder**
- ☐ Esophagus

6. What does the stomach mix food with?

- ☐ Bile
- ☒ **Acid**
- ☐ Blood
- ☐ Solid waste

Part C. Write your answer.

7. List the parts food passes through, in order, from the mouth to the rectum.

Mouth, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, rectum.

8. What does the esophagus do?

It squeezes in waves to push swallowed food down to the stomach.