

Animals get their energy from the food that they eat. Plants get their energy from the sun in the process called photosynthesis.

1. What does food do for us?
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Yuckiest Site on the Internet

1. Why does your stomach gurgle?
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Pancreas

The pancreas produces insulin which helps to control the amount of sugar (glucose) in the blood. If the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or if the body cannot use insulin properly, the body cannot control the amount of sugar in the blood. This condition is called diabetes.

1. The pancreas does not actually digest any of the foods that you eat, but makes most of the enzymes that do. Where does it send the enzymes?
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Liver

About 1.5 quarts of blood flow through the liver every minute.

1. The liver makes bile. Why is bile important?
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Small Intestine

Your small intestine has millions of small fingerlike structures called villi. Each villi is covered with even smaller fingerlike structures called microvilli. These structures increase the surface area of the small intestine. The surface area is increased by about 600 times over what it would be if the lining of the small intestines was flat.

1. What are the 3 parts of the small intestine?
 2. How long is the small intestine?
 3. How long can it take food to travel through the small intestine?
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Large Intestine

Water makes up about $\frac{3}{5}$ of the weight of feces. Without the water feces are composed of about $\frac{1}{3}$ undigested parts of food like fiber, $\frac{1}{3}$ dead bacteria, and $\frac{1}{3}$ unwanted mineral salts, mucus, bile contents, and little rubbed-off bits of intestinal lining.

1. Where is the cecum? What hangs off of the end of the cecum? What is the function of the cecum? Go to [The Human Digestive System](#) and select large intestine from the pulldown menu to see a good illustration of where the cecum is.
2. What does the colon do?
3. What does the rectum do?

The Real Deal on the Digestive System

The liver regulates the levels of vitamins and minerals in the blood by storing them until they are needed.

1. When you swallow, what keeps food from going down your windpipe?
2. What letter is your stomach shaped like?
3. What might make a person throw up? In other words, why would a stomach empty out its contents?
4. About how big around and long is the small intestine?
5. List the important functions of your liver.
6. About how big around and long is your large intestine?
7. What does the amount of time that feces stay in the large intestine depend on?
8. From the picture on this page, what is the normal final resting place for feces?
9. What can you do to keep your digestive system in good shape?

Why do I Burp?

Every time you eat a meal, you swallow about $\frac{9}{10}$ ths of a pint of air.

1. Explain what a burp is.
2. Explain what a fart is. (You know, a normal part of the digestive system).