

Digestive and Excretory Systems

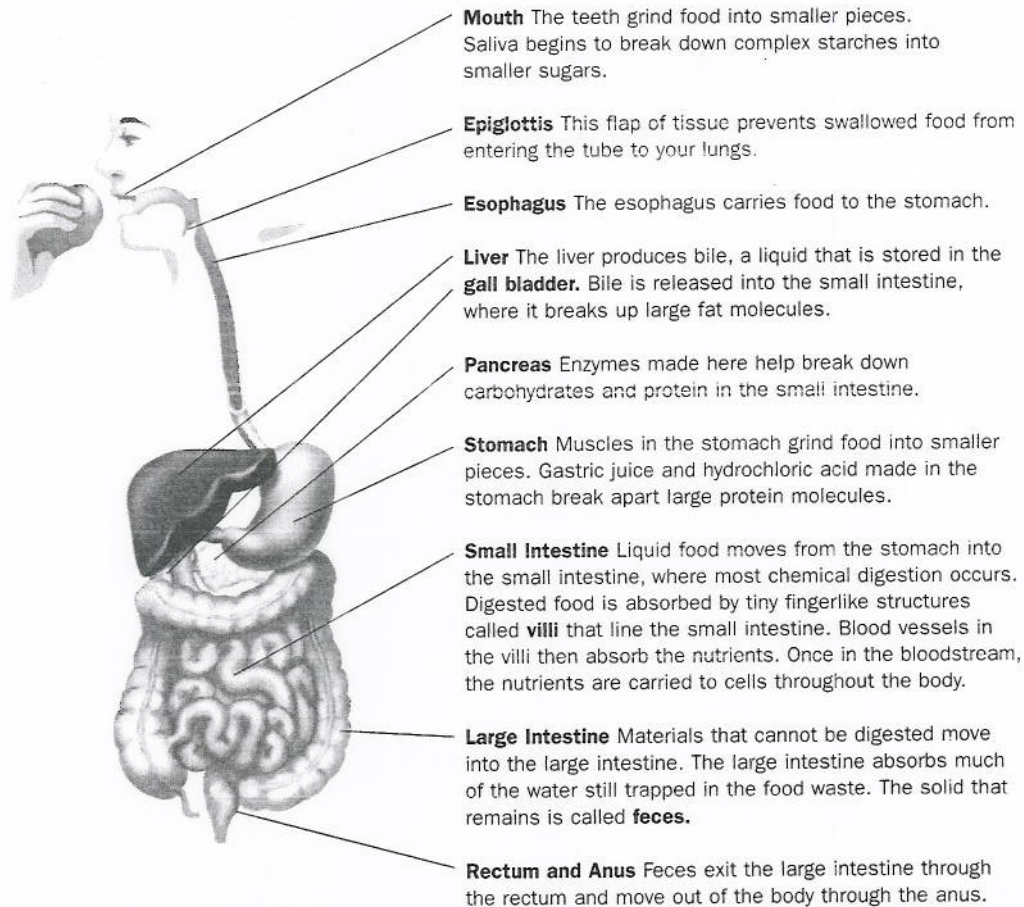
The digestive and excretory systems work together to take in materials your body needs and get rid of wastes.

Digestive System

The energy and materials that keep your body working come from food. The breaking down of food into substances the body can use is the job of the **digestive system**. There are two kinds of digestion. **Mechanical digestion** breaks food into smaller pieces. **Chemical digestion** uses special proteins called **enzymes** to break up large food molecules into smaller molecules that can be taken in by cells.

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Processes

Digestive system

Excretory System

The job of the **excretory system** is to remove wastes produced by the activities of cells. Many of these wastes are eliminated as liquid urine. **Urine** is formed by the **urinary system**, which is made up of the kidneys, the urinary bladder, the ureters, and the urethra.

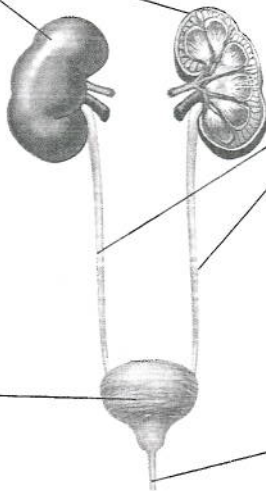
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Science Alert!

Don't confuse the roles of the excretory system and the digestive system in eliminating wastes from the body. Feces are the unusable remains of food you eat. Urine is cellular waste that has been filtered from your bloodstream.

Kidneys Blood that enters the kidneys passes through millions of tiny filters called **nephrons**. Liquid waste carried in the blood collects in the filters and forms **urine**.



Ureters The urine moves out of the kidneys and into the urinary bladder through long tubes called ureters.

Urinary Bladder Urine is stored in the urinary bladder until it is eliminated from the body.

Urethra Urine leaves the body through the urethra.

Urinary system

Did You Know?

Your skin is the largest organ in your body. It serves as an organ of excretion when you get rid of water and salts through perspiration. Perspiring also helps cool your body.