The Digestive System

Every cell in your body needs a supply of food and nutrients. The ***Digestive System*** is the organ system that takes in food, digests it and excretes the remaining waste. It is made up of the ***digestive tract*** and the ***accessory organs***.

***The Digestive Tract***

THE MOUTH

* Starts the process of breaking down food, it does this mechanically by your teeth and tongue and chemically with saliva, which adds water and enzymes to soften and break down food.

THE ESOPHAGUS

* A muscular tube that connects your mouth to your stomach.
* The muscles are smooth muscle tissue, which allows involuntary movement controlled by nerve tissue.

THE STOMACH

* The main function is to hold and churn food.
* The stomach is lined with cells that produce digestive enzymes and acids.
* The stomach also has nerve cells that signal to us when we need to eat.

SMALL INTESTINE

* Most digestion and absorption of nutrients occurs here. (It’s 6 m long!)
* Epithelial lines the intestine all allows the diffusion of nutrients into the bloodstream.

LARGE INTESTINE

* Shorter and thicker than the small intestine, it’s lining absorbs water from the undigested food.
* The remaining solid matter is excreted as feces from the anus.

***The Accessory Organs***

THE LIVER

* Produces a fluid called bile, to help break down fats in food.
* Detoxifies harmful substances that we ingest.

THE GALL BLADDER

* Stores bile until needed by the small intestine.

PANCREAS

* Produces an important enzyme called insulin, which regulates the amount of sugar in the blood.



***Homework***:

Read pages 80-82 and answer questions #3-5

