Nova's Digestive System Flashcards

Learning objective: To identify and describe the functions of the main parts of the human digestive system.

Read the front of each flashcard to test your knowledge about how the body processes food. Flip the card to check your understanding of the digestive system.

What is the primary function of the digestive system?

To break down food into small molecules that the body can absorb and use for energy and growth.

What is the role of saliva in the mouth?

It moistens food to make it easier to swallow and contains enzymes to begin breaking down carbohydrates.

What is the name of the muscular tube that carries food from the mouth to the stomach?

The oesophagus.

What happens to food inside the stomach?

It is churned and mixed with strong acid and digestive juices to break it down into a thick liquid.

Which organ absorbs most of the nutrients from the digested food into the bloodstream?

The small intestine.

What is the main job of the large intestine?

To absorb water from the remaining undigested food and turn it into waste.

What are enzymes in digestion?

Biological proteins that speed up the chemical reactions that break down food molecules.

What is the process called when the body takes in nutrients from food?

Absorption.

Where does the digestive process begin?

In the mouth, where teeth break down food mechanically and saliva starts chemical digestion.

Why is the small intestine so long?

Its length provides a large surface area, which is necessary for the efficient absorption of nutrients into the blood.

What happens to waste material after it leaves the large intestine?

It is stored in the rectum before being passed out of the body.

How does the stomach protect itself from its own acid?

It is lined with a thick layer of mucus that prevents the acid from digesting the stomach wall itself.