

## Let's Learn

### What Is Digestion?

The food you eat has to be broken down into simpler substances before your body can use it. This process is called **digestion**.

Digestion happens in the **digestive system**. The digestive system is made up of many organs. Different organs in the digestive system produce different types of **digestive juices**. The digestive juices help to break down different types of food.



### Word Boost

partially  
absorbs

#### Mouth

Digestion begins in your mouth. Your teeth break the food into smaller pieces. Your tongue mixes the food with **saliva**, which partially digests the food. Your tongue also shapes the food into small balls before you swallow it.

#### Oesophagus

The oesophagus transports the food from your mouth to your stomach.

#### Stomach

The stomach produces digestive juice. The stomach squeezes and churns the food to mix it with the digestive juice. The partially digested food leaves the stomach and enters the small intestine.

#### Small intestine

The food is further digested by the digestive juices in the small intestine. Digestion ends in the small intestine. The digested food is absorbed through the walls of the small intestine into the blood. The blood transports the digested food to different parts of the body.

#### Large intestine

The undigested food passes into the large intestine. The large intestine absorbs water and some minerals from the undigested food.

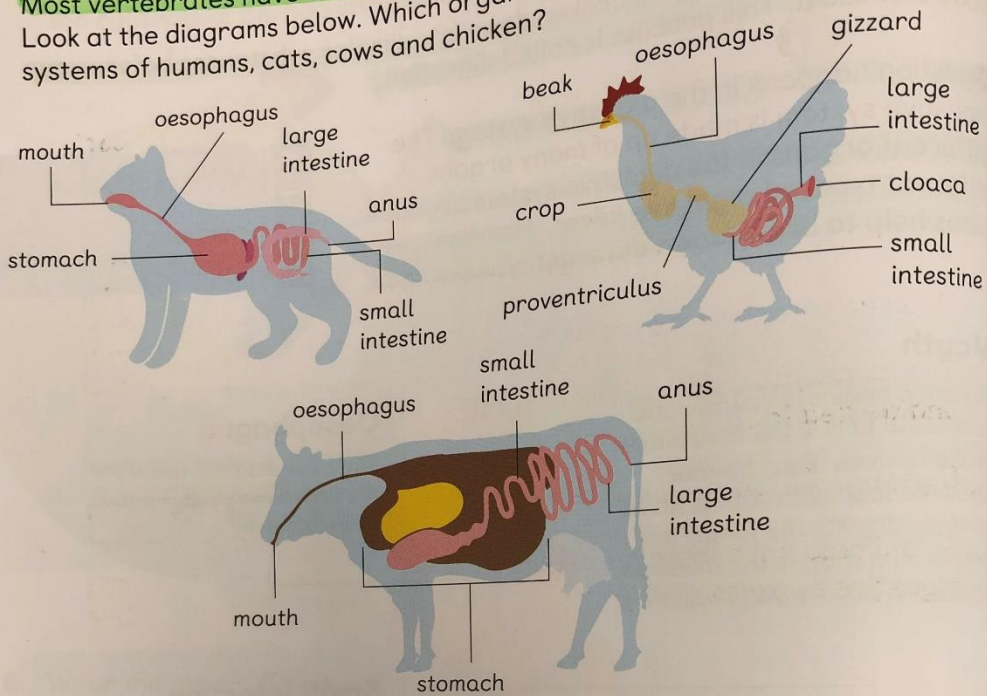
#### Anus

The anus is the opening at the end of the large intestine. Faeces, which is made up of undigested food and other waste matter, is removed from the body through the anus.



## Do Other Animals Have a Similar Digestive System?

Most vertebrates have a similar digestive system to humans. Look at the diagrams below. Which organs are the same in the digestive systems of humans, cats, cows and chicken?



digestive systems of animals

The digestive systems of these vertebrates are very similar to the human digestive system. However, some parts are different. Why do you think they are different?

### Check Your Learning

Describe how food passes through the human digestive system.



Activity Book  
Activity 2B, p. 14

Tick (✓) to show what you can do.

- I can describe the human digestive system.
- I can explain that many vertebrates have a similar digestive system.
- I can explain that a model shows important features of a process.
- I can use a diagram to illustrate a scientific idea.