



# Digestive System

EQ: How is the food you eat broken down so your body can use it?

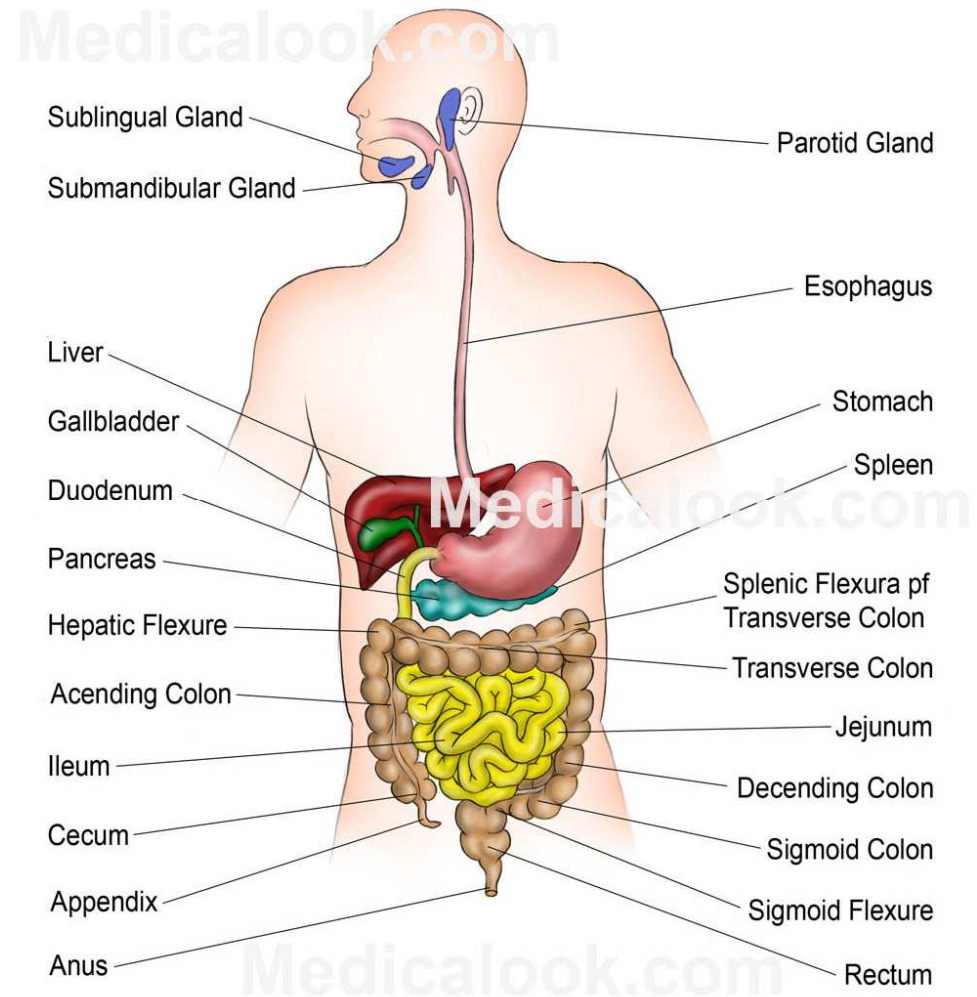


## 3 Main Functions

- a. Digestion – breakdown of foods within stomach and intestines for use by body's cells
- b. Absorption – passage of digested food from digestive tract into blood
- c. Elimination – body's expulsion of undigested food or body wastes.

# The Digestive Process

- **4 sections**
  - **1. Mouth**
  - **2. Throat**
  - **3. Stomach**
  - **4. Intestines**





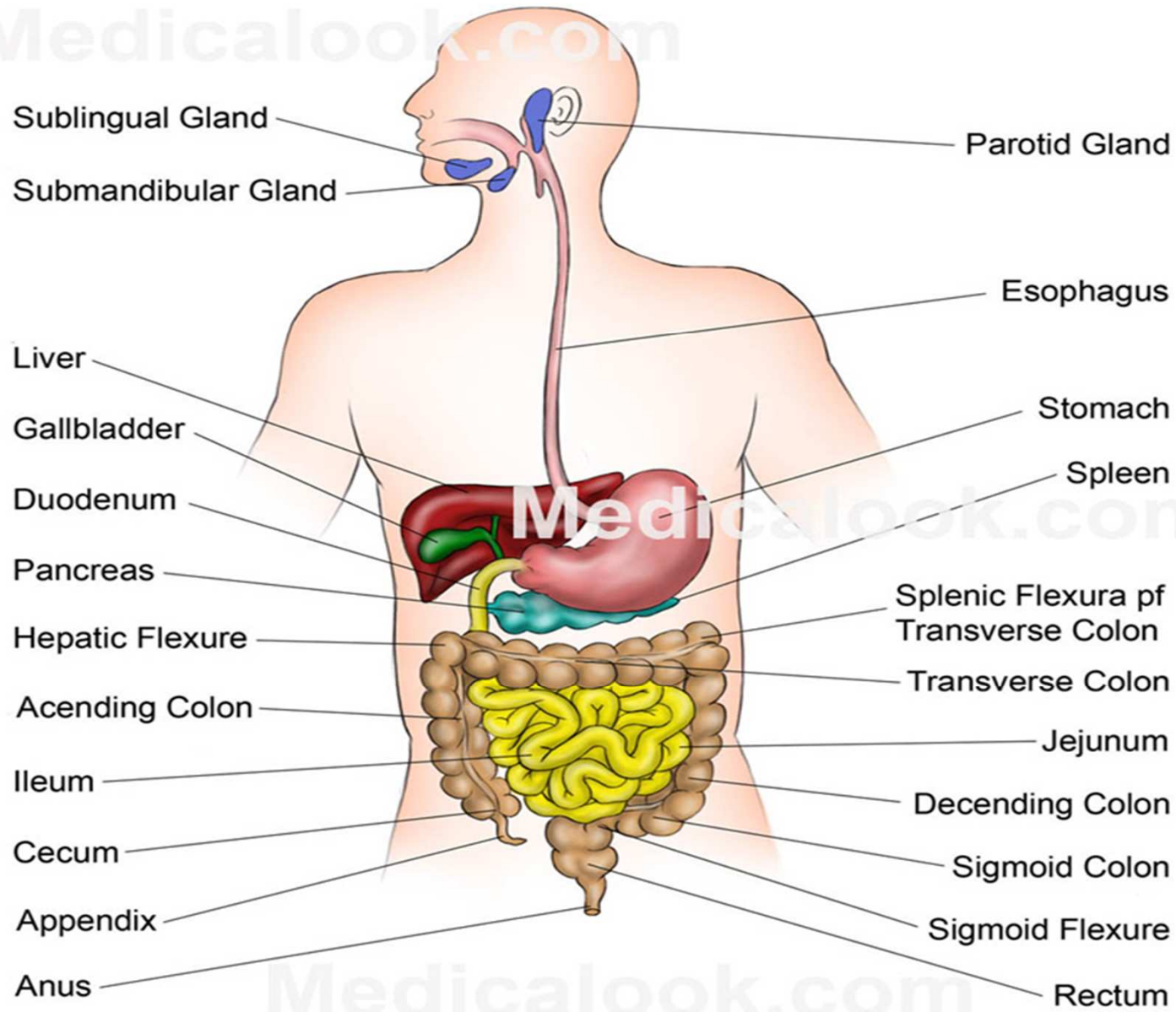
# The Digestive Process - Mouth

- a. **Teeth** break food you eat into smaller pieces
- b. **Mastication** – the process of chewing
- c. **Saliva** is produced by salivary glands. Saliva contains an enzyme that breaks down food in the mouth – **Amylase**.
- d. **Tongue** – shapes and prepares food for swallowing

# The Digestive Process – The Throat

- a. **The uvula** – small flap of tissue at the back of the throat that prevents food from going to the nasal passages
- b. **The epiglottis** – flap of tissue which covers the throat, preventing food from entering your airways.
- c. When **food is swallowed, it enters the esophagus** – a 10 inch tube that connects the throat to the stomach
- d. **Peristalsis** – series of involuntary muscle contractions that move food through the digestive system

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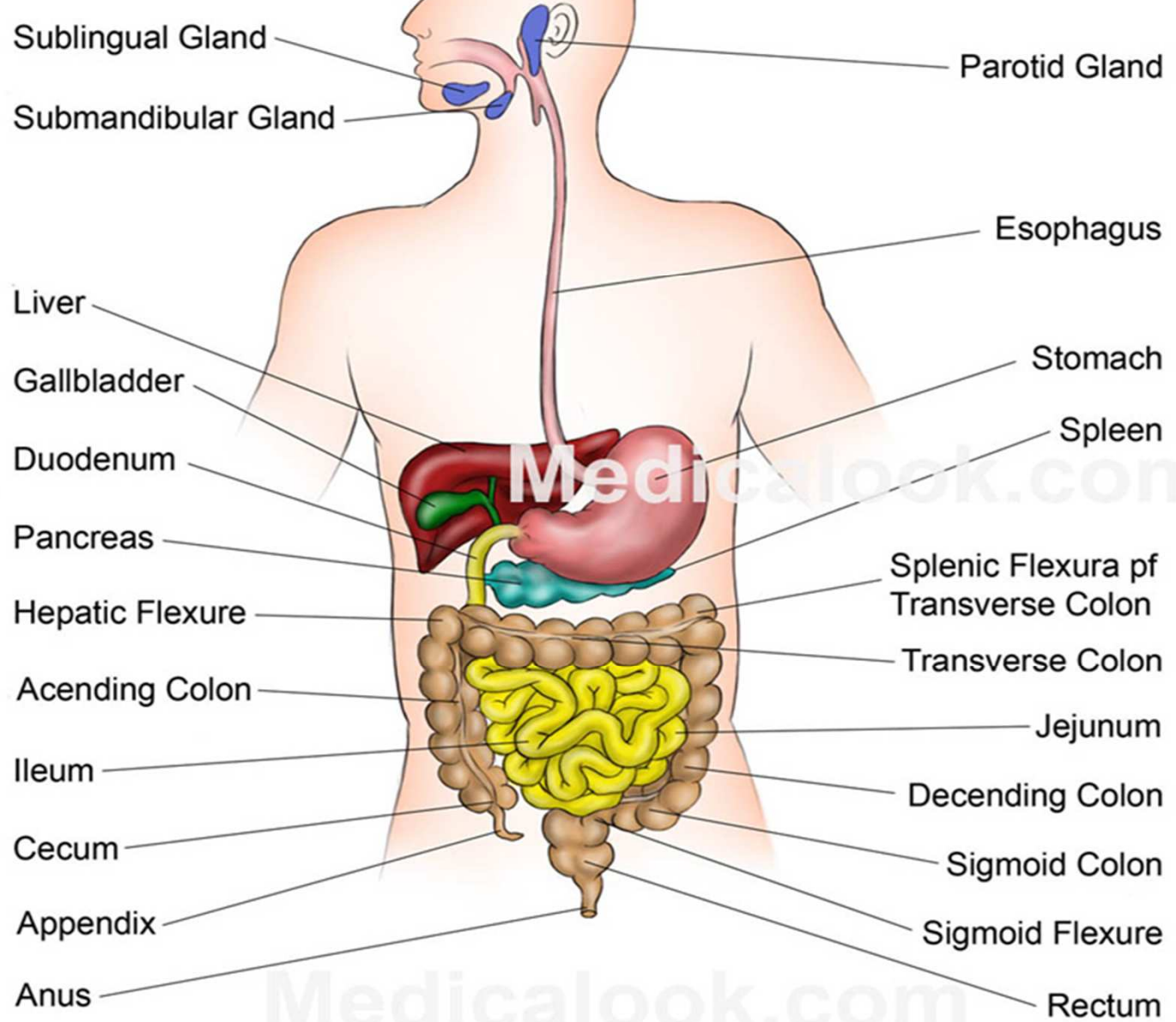


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# The Digestive Process - **Stomach**

- a. **Stomach** - hollow sac-like organ connected to the esophagus
- b. Functions:
  - digests food with gastric juices
  - moves food into small intestine
- c. Converts food into **chyme** - a creamy mixture of food and gastric juices.







# The Digestive Process - **Intestines**

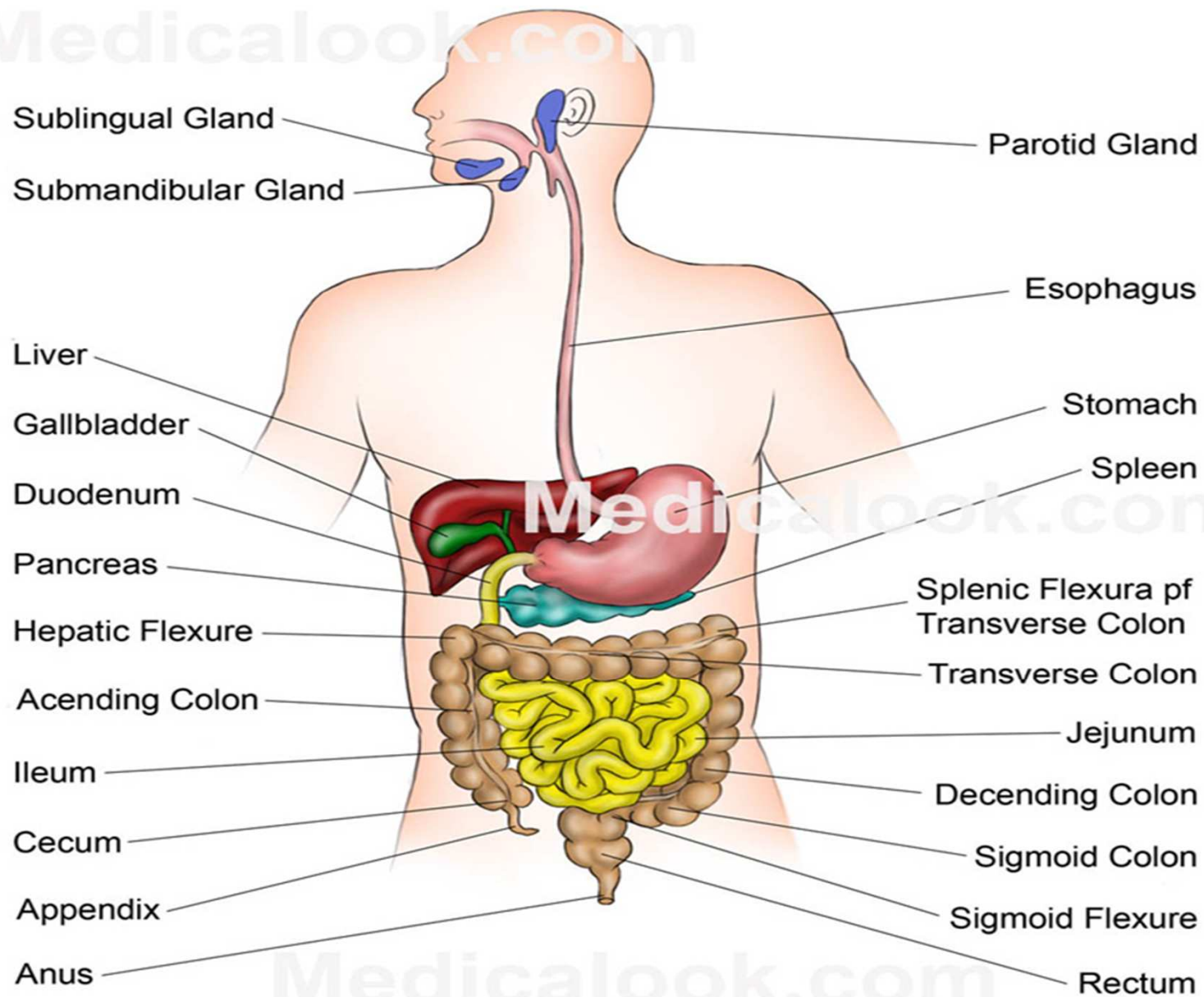
- **a. from the stomach, food moves into small intestines**
  - 20-23 feet long, 1 inch in diameter
  - This is where most of the nutrients from food are absorbed into the body!!!
- **b. inner lining contains villi – tiny fingerlike projections that help absorb nutrients**



# The Digestive Process - Intestines

- c. any unabsorbed material goes from the small intestine into the **large intestine**
- d. here water is absorbed; helps to eliminate waste
- e. undigested food passes through the large intestine; or the **colon**
- f. exited through the **anus**

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# Helpers of the Digestive System

1. It is important to note food DOES NOT pass through these organs!

## 2. Pancreas

- a. produces enzymes to help break down food
- b. produces insulin to help regulate blood sugar levels



# Helpers of the Digestive System

## 3. Liver

- a. produces bile
- b. Bile – a green fluid that helps  
breakdown fats

## 4. Gallbladder

- a. small pouch which stores the bile



# LEFT SIDE ACTIVITY

- Draw a body and trace the path food travels through the digestive system. Label all parts and explain what is occurring in each of the parts.