

# Digestive System

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Outline**

## The Digestive System

Use your textbook to help you fill in the blanks.

### Where do cells get energy to do work?

1. Your cells get energy from the \_\_\_\_\_ you eat.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ breaks down big food into simple substances so that tiny \_\_\_\_\_ can use it.
3. The body breaks down food both physically and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The body's \_\_\_\_\_ produce chemicals to help break down food.

### Where does digestion begin?

5. When you bite into food, your teeth tear and grind the food into a small ball called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Your \_\_\_\_\_, attached to the back of your mouth, has many \_\_\_\_\_ that allow you to taste sweet, salty, sour, and bitter things.
7. When the bolus is moved to the \_\_\_\_\_ or throat, it is finally swallowed into the \_\_\_\_\_, the long muscular tube that connects to the stomach.

### What are the special functions of various teeth in breaking down food?

8. The teeth used for biting food are found in the front of the mouth and are called \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_, the flat teeth in the back of your mouth, are used for crushing and grinding food.

**What happens to food once it is swallowed and goes into the esophagus?**

10. The esophagus is lined with \_\_\_\_\_, which makes the inside slippery.
11. Muscles in the esophagus squeeze the food and move it along to the \_\_\_\_\_.
12. After 4 to 6 hours in the stomach, the food is released into the \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Finally the nutrients are absorbed inside the small intestine, which has hairy finger-like bumps called \_\_\_\_\_.

**What happens to the food that is not absorbed?**

14. Food that could not be digested moves along to the \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the widest part of the large intestine.

**Summarize the Main Idea**

16. What are the basic steps of the digestion process?

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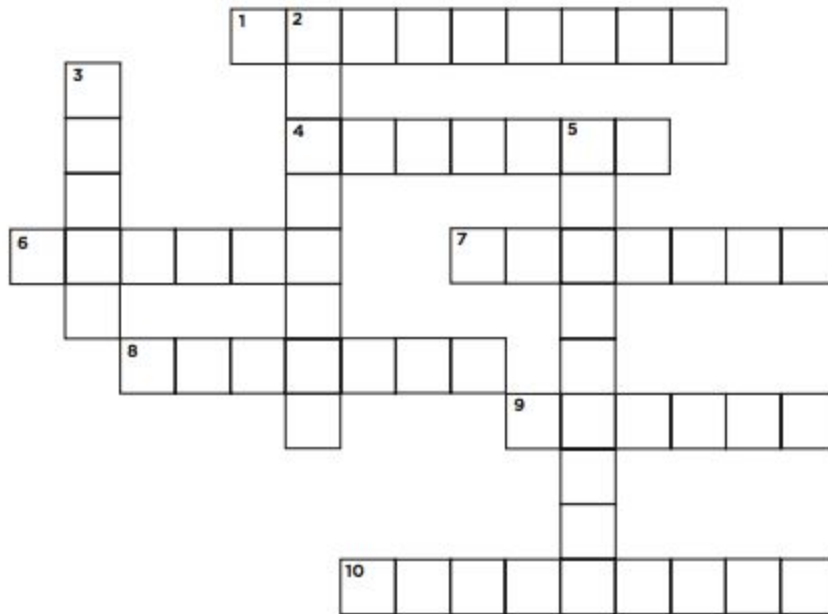
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## The Digestive System

Use the following hints to fill in the crossword puzzle.



### Across

1. the process that breaks down food into simple substances
4. pointy teeth used for cutting and tearing food
6. flat back teeth used for crushing and grinding food
7. has muscles that squeeze and mix food, as well as acids that break it down
8. another name for throat

9. found in the mouth, it starts softening food, breaking it down chemically
10. an organ that has villi to absorb the nutrients

### Down

2. front teeth used for biting food
3. the widest part of the large intestine
5. a muscular tube that connects your mouth to your stomach

**Cloze Test**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Digestive System

bile	colon	large intestine	small intestine
bolus	energy	molars	stomach
canines	esophagus	rectum	villi
chemically	incisors	saliva	

**Fill in the blanks.**

The function of the digestive system is to break food down so that the cells can use it. Food supplies \_\_\_\_\_ to the cells.

Digestion begins in the mouth with the teeth where \_\_\_\_\_ bite the food, and \_\_\_\_\_ cut and tear it.

\_\_\_\_\_ grind and crush the food into a small ball called \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ , a liquid

found in the mouth, softens the bolus and starts breaking it down \_\_\_\_\_ . Swallowed food moves down the

\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ . In the stomach

the liver adds \_\_\_\_\_ and the pancreas adds other

digestive juices that break food down into a soupy liquid. Then the food

moves to the \_\_\_\_\_ where it can be absorbed into the

body through \_\_\_\_\_ . The leftover food that could not

be digested moves to the \_\_\_\_\_ , which has the

\_\_\_\_\_ as its widest part. The last part of the large

intestine is the \_\_\_\_\_ .



## Meet George Barrowclough

When most people think of predators, they picture long, sharp teeth that can rip into flesh. But did you know that some predators, like owls, have no teeth at all? An owl is a predator, an animal that hunts other animals, that eat and digest their food in an interesting way.

George Barrowclough is an ornithologist at the American Museum of Natural History. An ornithologist is a scientist who studies birds. He investigates a bird called the Northern spotted owl, found only in California, Oregon, Washington, and parts of Canada. Northern spotted owls are excellent hunters. They catch mostly rodents, including flying squirrels, woodrats, and mice.

### Owl Pellets

When you eat, you chew first to break the food apart before swallowing it down to your stomach. Most of the time, when an owl eats a mouse, it swallows it whole. Then it relies on a part of its stomach called the gizzard to break the food down. The gizzard has digestive fluids that dissolve all of the soft tissue of the mouse.

The skeleton, teeth, fur, and claws don't have a lot of nutrients and are very hard for the owls to digest. So instead they are squeezed into a tight ball in the gizzard. Several hours later, the owl closes its eyes, coughs it up, and spits it out. This mass of mixed-up fur and bones is called a pellet.

Owl pellets may look gross to some people, but scientists like George find them fascinating. That's because scientists get a lot of information from owl pellets. They can find out what kinds of animals the owls prey on and how they hunt. This information is especially important because the Northern Spotted Owl is an endangered species of bird. The more we learn about these owls and what they need to survive, the better we are able to protect them.