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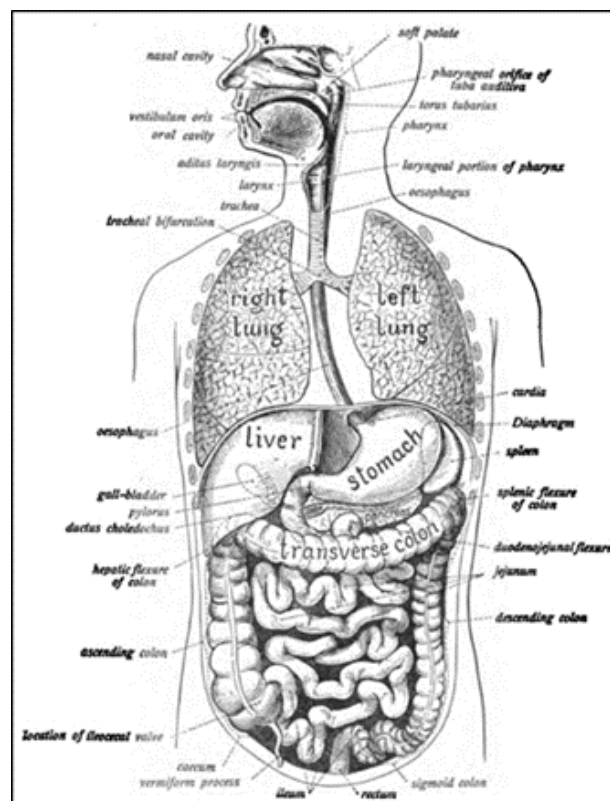
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Human Digestive System: Introduction of Human Digestive System

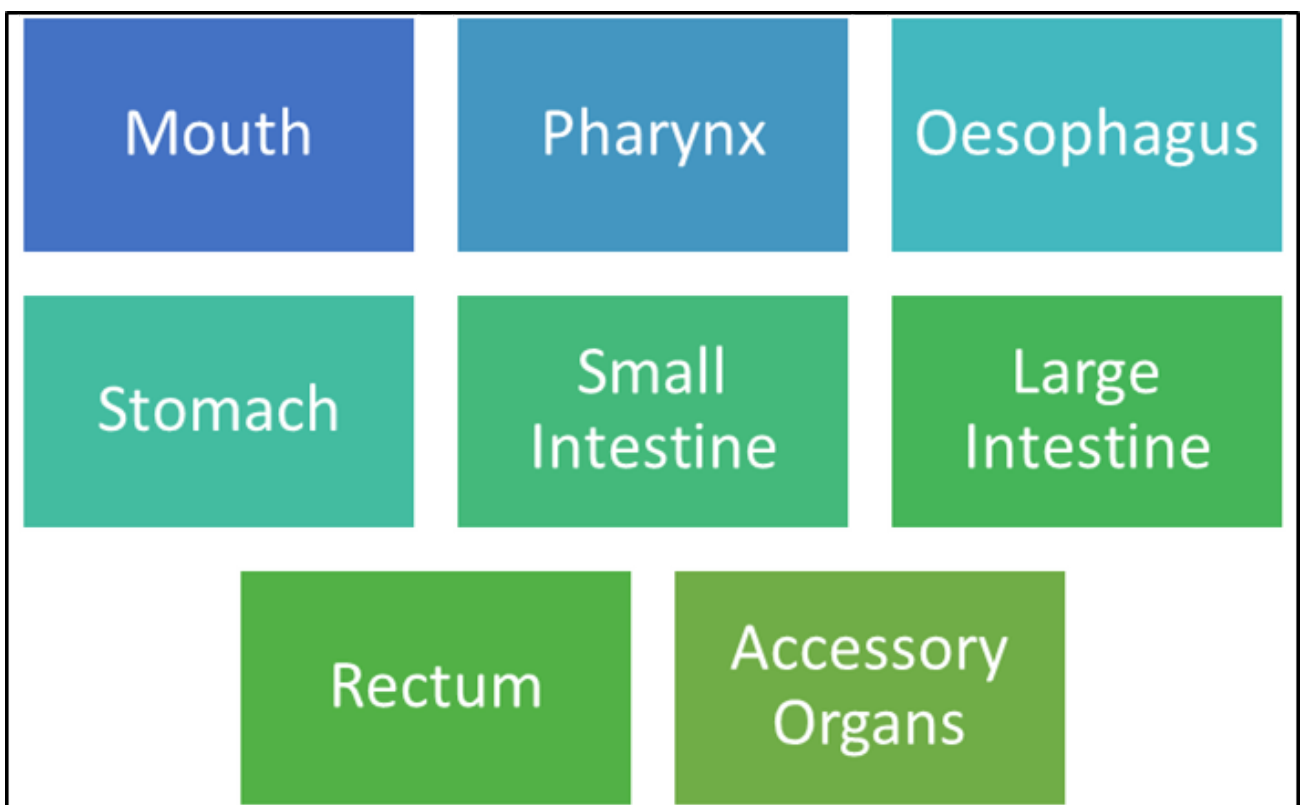
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Introduction of Human Digestive System

- Digestion means breaking down food into smaller and smaller components.
- The digestive system consists of the gastrointestinal tract plus the accessory organs of digestion such as the tongue, salivary glands, pancreas, liver, and gallbladder.
- This is an important process as it helps living beings to obtain their energy from various sources.
- This process involves the alimentary canal along with various accessory organs and organ systems.
- Digestion process is completed by a combination of:
 - Nerves
 - Bacteria
 - Hormones
 - Blood
 - Other organs



Parts of the Human Digestive System



Mouth

- It is the first part of the upper gastrointestinal tract and is equipped with several structures.
- This includes salivary glands, teeth, and the tongue.
- The vestibule and the oral cavity proper are the two regions.
- The area between the teeth, lips, and cheeks is called the vestibule.
- Most of the oral cavity is lined with oral mucosa, a mucous membrane.

Pharynx

- This is attached to the terminal end of the mouth.
- It is fibromuscular y-shaped tube.
- It is found in vertebrates and invertebrates, though its structure varies across species.

Oesophagus

- It is a muscular tube connecting the throat (pharynx) with the stomach.
- It supplies swallowed food along with its length.

Stomach

- It is a muscular organ located on the left side of the upper abdomen.
- It receives food from the oesophagus.
- To maintain the process of digestion, the stomach also produces digestive enzymes and hydrochloric acid.

Small Intestine

- It is an organ in the gastrointestinal tract.
- Most of the end absorption of nutrients and minerals from food takes place.
- It lies between the stomach and large intestine.

Large Intestine

- It is also known as the large bowel.
- It is the last part of the gastrointestinal tract and of the digestive system in vertebrates.
- Water absorption takes place here.
- The remaining waste material is stored as faeces before being removed by defecation.

Rectum

- A chamber begins at the end of the large intestine.
- It immediately following the sigmoid colon, and ends at the anus.
- The rectum is empty because stool is stored higher in the descending colon.

Accessory Organs

Pancreas

It releases digestive enzymes to complete the process of chemical digestion.

Liver

- It is a roughly triangular, reddish-brown accessory organ of the digestive system.
- Bile is produced by pancreas, which helps in the digestion of fat in the small intestine.

Functions of the Human Digestive System

- Digestive system helps in the process of digestion and absorption.
- Digestive system is divided into two major parts:
 - The digestive tract (alimentary canal) is a continuous tube with two openings.
 - The mouth and the anus.
- Digestion takes place in following steps:
 - Ingestion
 - Mixing and Movement
 - Secretion
 - Digestion
 - Absorption
 - Excretion