

### Gastrointestinal Tract (GI)

- Includes esophagus, stomach, small and large intestine
- These secrete digestive enzymes and absorb nutrients
- Organ are also covered by layers of muscle that enable peristalsis
- Peristalsis is involuntary muscle contraction that has a wave like motion

Accessory organs involve in digestion but not part of the GI tract

### Function

- Digestion of food
- Absorption of nutrients into the bloodstream
- Eliminate of solid food waste
- Mechanical process is the physical breakdown of chunks of food into small pieces in the mouth and stomach
- Chemical process is the breakdown of large, complex food into smaller pieces absorbed by the body

### Process

Mouth Esophagus

- Digestive enzymes are released by the salivary glands

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Page 1 of 1.

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