



# DIGESTION - WHAT HAPPENS TO FOOD WHEN WE EAT?

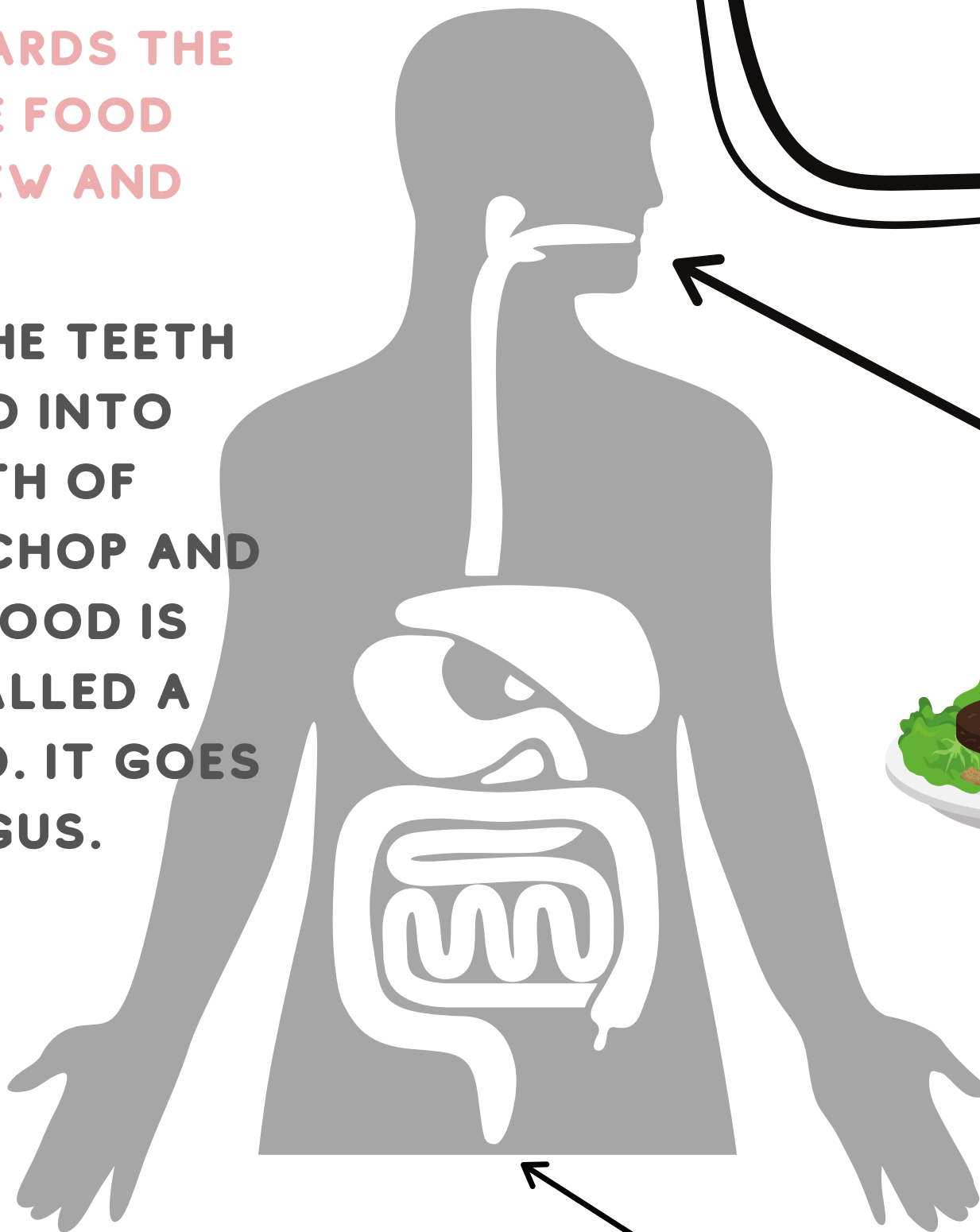
**CHALLENGE!**  
CAN YOU MATCH THE LABELS TO THE CORRECT PART OF THE BODY?

**MOUTH**  
**OESOPHAGUS**  
**STOMACH**  
**INTESTINES**  
**RECTUM**

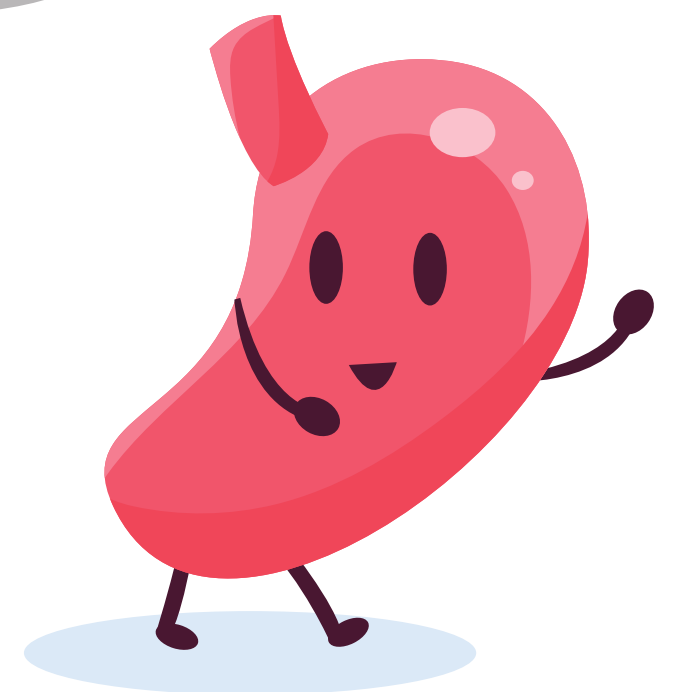
## MOUTH - THE CHEEKS AND TONGUE

HELP PUSH THE FOOD TOWARDS THE TEETH. SALIVA WETS THE FOOD MAKING IT EASIER TO CHEW AND SWALLOW

**TEETH** - WHEN WE EAT, THE TEETH BREAK DOWN THE FOOD INTO SMALLER PIECES. TEETH OF DIFFERENT SHAPES TEAR, CHOP AND GRIND THE FOOD. THE FOOD IS ROLLED INTO A BALL CALLED A "BOLUS" AND SWALLOWED. IT GOES INTO THE OESOPHAGUS.



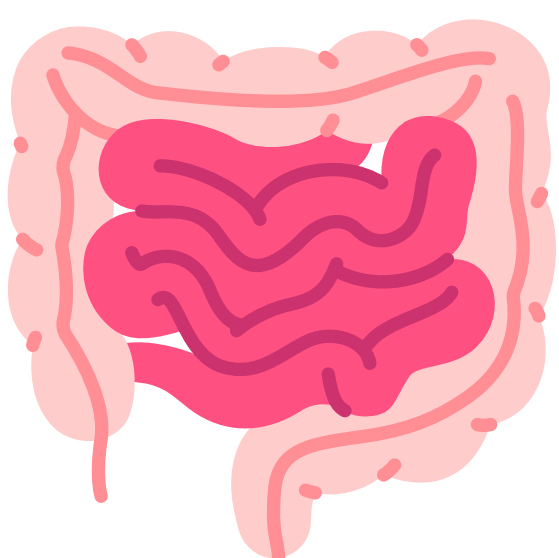
FOOD IN



POO OUT

**OESOPHAGUS** - WHEN FOOD IS SWALLOWED, THE MUSCLES IN THE OESOPHAGUS CONTRACT AND RELAX, PUSHING THE FOOD INTO THE STOMACH. EACH MOUTHFUL OF FOOD TAKES ABOUT 6 SECONDS TO GET THERE. EVEN IF YOU STOOD ON YOUR HEAD, THE FOOD WOULD STILL BE PUSHED INTO YOUR STOMACH

**STOMACH** - THE STOMACH IS A SACK MADE OF MUSCLES THAT SQUEEZES THE FOOD AND CHURNS IT, MIXING IT WITH ACID AND ENZYMES TO BREAK IT DOWN EVEN MORE. FOOD SPENDS ABOUT 2-3 HOURS IN THE STOMACH.



THE SMALL INTESTINE IS ABOUT 6 METRES LONG. THIS IS WHERE ALL THE GOODNESS FROM YOUR FOOD IS ABSORBED. ANY UNDIGESTED FOOD MOVES ALONG INTO THE LARGE INTESTINE, AND THEN COMES OUT IN YOUR POO!