

# The Digestive System

**Ingestion:** eating food

**Digestion:** mechanical and chemical digestion

**Absorption:** lumen → blood stream (passive or active)

**Defecation :** removing indigestible waste

## Saliva

- Secreted by exocrine glands
- High water content (weak)
- Initiates chemical digestion
- Protects against dryness

## Esophagus

- Transfers from oral cavity to stomach
- Thick walled, muscular
- 7 seconds from mouth to stomach

## Esophageal Peristalsis

- pushes content down into stomach
- contracted muscle above food, relaxed muscle below
- makes sure food doesn't come back up

## Liver

- detoxification – alcohol
- synthesize plasma proteins
- produces bile
- stores glycogen
- decomposition of RBCs
- Cells can regenerate, needs own blood supply

## Gall Bladder

- Releasing hormones, reacts and responds to things eaten (fatty foods)
- Can live without – not vital

