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STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE CLASS-VII

Date : 04-05-2021

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▶ Nutrition in Animals

Digestion in Humans

The food components pass through a continuous canal and get digested in each compartment. This is called an alimentary canal, it is 'the tract or canal running from mouth to anus of human being where digestion and absorption of food take place.'

The alimentary canal can be divided into various compartments:

- The buccal cavity
- Food pipe or oesophagus
- Stomach
- Small intestine
- Large intestine ending in the rectum
- The anus

The main digestive glands which secrete digestive juices are

- salivary gland
- liver
- Pancreas

Various processes involved in utilisation of food in humans are

- The process of taking food into the body is called ingestion.
- The process by which the food containing large insoluble substances is broken down into small water-soluble substances is called digestion. There are two methods of digesting food, i.e. physical method (including chewing and grinding of food in mouth) and chemical method (addition of digestive juices to the food by the body itself).
- The process by which the digested food passes through the intestinal wall into the bloodstream is called absorption.
- The process by which the absorbed food is taken in body cells and used for energy, growth and repair is called assimilation.
- The process by which the undigested food is removed from the body is called egestion.