

## Digestion: An Absorbing Tale Notes

### Stopping to Think 1

1. How does your mouth contribute to the process of digestion?
2. Explain how your stomach helps break down food.

### Stopping to Think 2

3. Explain the relationship between food and nutrients.

4. What role(s) does your small intestine play in digestion?

### Stopping to Think 3

5. Why does blood travel to your liver before transporting nutrients to other parts of your body?

### Stopping to Think 4

6. The reading describes three components of human solid waste. Which two of these do you think are the main components? Why do you think so?

### Analysis

1. What are some of the functions of the digestive system?

2. Fill in the table by placing an X to indicate the function(s) of each organ. The first row has been done for you.

### Functions of Digestive Organs

Organ	Mechanical breakdown	Chemical breakdown	Nutrient absorption	Water absorption and solid waste production
Mouth	X	X		
Stomach				
Small Intestine				
Pancreas				
Liver				
Large Intestine				

3. Imagine taking a bite of a burrito. Follow the beans in the burrito through the process of digestion. Explain what types of changes take place and where each change happens.

4. Most substances are absorbed in the small intestine and not in the stomach. Aspirin is a common exception; it is absorbed in the stomach. Why would you want medicines, like aspirin, to be absorbed in the stomach instead of the intestines?

6. Take a closer look at the villi of the small intestine (part "B" in the diagram, "Cross Sections of the Small Intestine"). How do the villi help nutrients move into the blood quickly?