

Digestive System Lab: Lesson Plan

Resources

Required resources for students:

- Visible Body's Human Anatomy Atlas version 2018.5 or later
- Worksheet (see below)

Additional resources for students and teachers:

- This lesson assumes that students have a basic understanding of the digestive system. They can read articles and watch videos here: <https://www.visiblebody.com/learn/digestive>

Objectives

At the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Describe the key structures of the digestive system, including the accessory organs.
2. Describe the path food takes to be digested.

In their answers, students should define the following terms: Alimentary canal, oral cavity, salivary glands, tongue, epiglottis, esophagus, stomach, bolus, chyme, duodenum, pancreas, small intestine, large intestine, rectum, and anal canal.

They will be able to find and identify the following: Common bile duct, common hepatic duct, cystic duct, gall bladder, liver, and pancreas.

Introduction

10 minutes: Use the video and set of articles referenced in the additional resources section above to give students a brief introduction to the key structures and functions of the digestive system. For the upper digestive system, focus on how the teeth break down the food, how the salivary glands secrete saliva to create the bolus, and how the food is directed to the esophagus. You'll also want to focus on the lower digestive system and how the stomach, intestines, rectum, and anal canal contribute to peristalsis, digestion, absorption, and elimination.

Student Activities

30 minutes: Have your students complete the four activity worksheets in this lesson. Check their work using the answer key.