

CHECK YOUR LEARNING

Suggested Answers

1. The main parts and functions of the digestive system are: mouth: mechanically break down food into small pieces, start chemical digestion; esophagus: bring food to stomach; stomach: use enzymes to digest, use nerves to sense fullness; small intestine: further digest, pass nutrients to bloodstream; large intestine: re-absorb water, get rid of waste.
2. Digestion is necessary because food must be broken down into molecules to be able to diffuse through the walls of the intestine into the bloodstream and ultimately diffuse into cells.
3. Substances added to the food in the digestive tract are saliva, stomach acid, enzymes, bile, and mucus.
4. Muscle tissue contracts to push food through the digestive system.
5. One disease of the digestive system is colitis. Colitis results when epithelial tissue in the colon becomes inflamed due to infection and stops the colon from working properly.