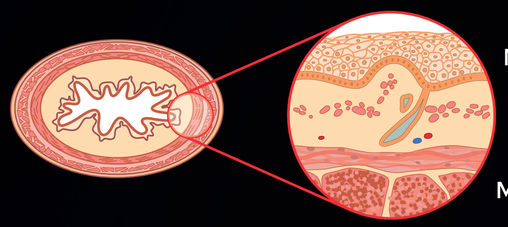
MOUTH

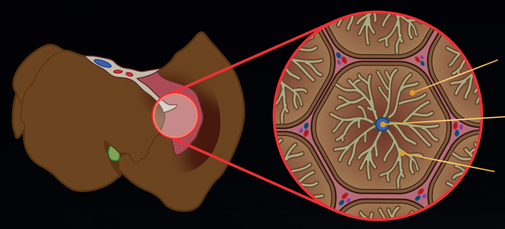
- Mechanical and chemical digestion, by teeth and enzymes in the saliva

OESOPHAGUS



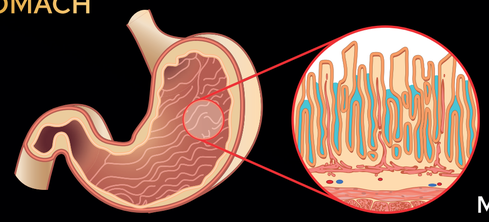
- Muscular tube relaying food from the mouth to the stomach

LIVER



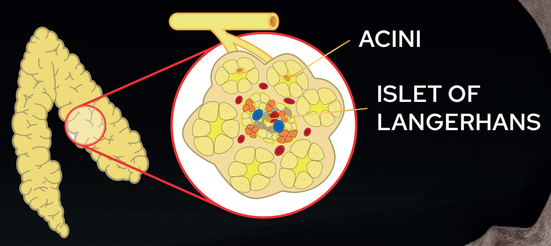
- Produces bile acids for fat digestion
- Processes nutrients coming from the small intestine

STOMACH



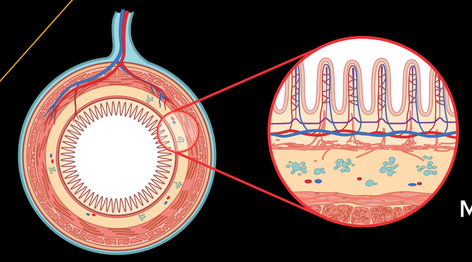
- Preliminary digestion by stomach acid and enzymes
- The acid kills potential pathogens

PANCREAS



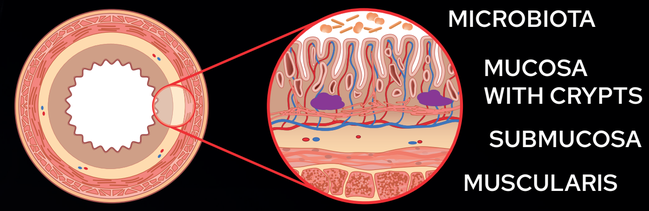
- Produces enzymes in the acini for food digestion
- Produces hormones in the Islet of Langerhans to control blood glucose levels
- Bicarbonate secretion to neutralize the acidity coming from the stomach

SMALL INTESTINE



- Further enzymatic digestion (from pancreatic and brush border enzymes)
- Absorption of nutrients
- Specialised local lymphoid tissue

LARGE INTESTINE



- Water and electrolyte absorption
- Contains bacteria which ferment nutrients to produce short-chain fatty acids, vitamins and other beneficial compounds
- Formation and transport of faeces
- Specialised local lymphoid tissue

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THE GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM OF DOGS