Digestive System Web Quest

<http://www.uen.org/utahlink/activities/view_activity.cgi?activity_id=3045>

(Link found on msdohrscience.weebly.com)

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Follow this digestive system web quest to learn more about how the system works. Click each purple link to answer the questions below it. Record your answers on this paper.

Learning Target: I can explain how the digestive system works.

**Digestive System Facts**

When you take a bite of food, your mouth immediately begins the process of digestion.

1. About how much food does the average male eat in their lifetime?

**What is Spit?**

An assembly line puts things together. Our digestive system is like a disassembly line--it takes food apart and breaks it down into parts that our bodies can use.

1. How much saliva (spit) do you produce in a day?
2. What is saliva made up of?

**The Epiglottis**

If food is very cold or very hot, your mouth warms or cools it until it is nearer body temperature which makes it safer to swallow.

1. What does your epiglottis do?

**The Digestive System**

Animals get their energy from the food that they eat. Plants get their energy from the sun in the process called photosynthesis.

1. What does food do for us?

**Gurgle (after you click this link, notice there is more than one page)**

1. Why does your stomach gurgle?

**Vomit**

1. What is vomit?
2. Why do we vomit?
3. How do we vomit?
4. Why is vomit green?

**Liver**

About 1.5 quarts of blood flow through the liver every minute.

1. The liver makes bile. Why is bile important?

**Small Intestine (go to third page for small intestine)**

Your small intestine has millions of small fingerlike structures called villi. Each villi is covered with even smaller fingerlike structures called microvilli. These structures increase the surface area of the small intestine. The surface area is increased by about 600 times over what it would be if the lining of the small intestines was flat.

1. What are the 3 parts of the small intestine?
2. How long is the small intestine?
3. How long can it take food to travel through the small intestine?

**Large Intestine (same article as one above, go to last page for large intestine)**

Water makes up about 3/5 of the weight of feces. Without the water feces are composed of about 1/3 undigested parts of food like fiber, 1/3 dead bacteria, and 1/3 unwanted mineral salts, mucus, bile contents, and little rubbed-off bits of intestinal lining.

1. Where is the cecum? What hangs off of the end of the cecum? What is the function of the cecum?

Go to The Human Digestive System and select large intestine from the pull down menu to see a good illustration of where the cecum is.

1. What does the colon do?
2. What does the rectum do?

**The Real Deal on the Digestive System (again, same article)**

The liver regulates the levels of vitamins and minerals in the blood by storing them until they are needed.

1. When you swallow, what keeps food from going down your windpipe?
2. What letter is your stomach shaped like?
3. What might make a person throw up? In other words, why would a stomach empty out its contents?
4. About how big around and long is the small intestine?
5. List the important functions of your liver.
6. About how big around and long is your large intestine?
7. What does the amount of time that feces stay in the large intestine depend on?
8. From the picture on this page, what is the normal final resting place for feces?

10. What can you do to keep your digestive system in good shape?

**Why do I Burp?**

Every time you eat a meal, you swallow about 9/10ths of a pint of air.

1. Explain what a burp is.
2. Explain what a fart is. (you know, a normal part of the digestive system).

**Bibliography**

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