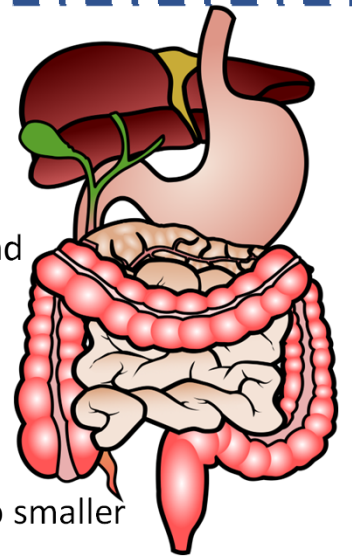


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Journey of an Apple!



In a cozy fruit basket tucked away on the kitchen counter, I was a bright red freshly picked apple. My skin was shiny, and my insides were crisp and juicy. On a fine sunny morning, an 11 year old toddler named Blanka picked me up. Little did I know that my adventure was about to begin! Blanka took a big bite, and suddenly, I found myself inside his mouth. The saliva swirled around me, breaking down my sugars and starches. It felt like a fruity and slippery water park! Blanka's teeth crunched me into smaller pieces, and I jiggled and gasped as I slid down her throat.

Next thing I knew, I was in Blanka's stomach! Blanka's tummy was like a cozy cave. Acid splashed around, saying hello. I waved back, feeling a bit tingly and almost dizzy. The acid worked hard, breaking me down further. It was like a wild dance party in there! But wait, what's this? The stomach had a special door called the pyloric sphincter. It opened, and I slipped into the small intestine. The small intestine was like a long, twirly, twisty slide. I glided along, and guess what? There were helpers waiting for me! Enzymes high-fived me, saying, "We'll turn you into nutrients!" They chopped me up into tiny pieces—glucose, vitamins, and minerals. These nutrients were like magical tickets to the bloodstream carnival.

Blanka's blood vessels carried me away. Whee! I traveled to Blanka's liver, where I got a makeover. The liver turned me into energy and stored some of me for later. I felt important, like a superstar! But the journey wasn't over yet.

Next, I visited the large intestine. It was wide and roomy, like a lazy river. Water soaked up the last bits of me, making me softer. Bacteria friends threw a farewell party, munching on the leftovers. They were the cleanup crew, and I thanked them for their hard work. Finally, it was time to say goodbye. The rectum held me, like a gentle hug. Blanka's body pushed me out through the exit door—the anus! I plopped into the toilet bowl, feeling a mix of sadness and relief. Goodbye, Blanka! Thanks for the adventure!

And that's how an apple travels through the digestive system. So, my friend, next time you eat an apple, remember our journey.

1. *Read the reading passage thoroughly.*
2. *Underline any word or sentence you don't understand.*

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Answer according to the reading passage:

- 1. Where does the apple go after the stomach?**
 - a. large intestine
 - b. small intestine
 - c. liver

- 2. What do enzymes in the small intestine do to the apple?**
 - a. make it softer
 - b. turn it into energy
 - c. chop it into pieces

- 3. What is the purpose of the pyloric sphincter?**
 - a. to open the exit door
 - b. to absorb the nutrients
 - c. to break down food

- 4. What part threw the farewell party?**
 - a. germ friends
 - b. bacteria friends
 - c. the rectum

- 5. What's the body's exit door called?**
 - a. the anus
 - b. the rectum
 - c. the large intestine

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Open Response Questions

Open response questions for thinking skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. Why is the liver an essential part of this journey?
 2. Describe how the apple would feel during the journey through all parts of the digestive system.
 3. How does the apple's experience in the large intestine differ from other parts of the journey?
 4. Describe what the apple's journey would look like through the digestive system.
- If the apple could talk, what advice could it give to other food about to take this journey?
 - Find out what connects the mouth to the stomach and explain how it works.
 - Why do you think there are so many processes in the digestive system?
 - Compare and contrast the digestive system to a food processor.
 - What would happen if there was no digestive system?
 - Why do you think babies need just soft or pureed foods?