

Digestive System of a Frog

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Introduction to digestive system of a frog

The digestive system of frog consists of digestive tract and the accessory organs which help to process the food consumed into small molecules (nutrients) which then can be easily absorbed and then utilized by the cells of the body.

Parts of the digestive system of a frog includes:

- Mouth
- Pharynx
- Oesophagus
- Stomach
- Small intestine
- Large intestine
- Cloaca
- Accessory organs

Mechanism of Digestion in Digestive System of a Frog

The digestive system of a frog starts with the mouth. Mouth helps in consumption of food. This process is known as ingestion. Frog feeds on flies or insects. As the teeth's present in frog is very weak they are not useful to catch the agile prey. Frogs catch their food (such as insects and flies) with the help of its stick tongue and mixes it with the saliva. The teeth's present in the upper jaw are called the maxillary teeth, it helps in grinding the ingested food before it is swallowed.

The saliva produced and secreted by the salivary glands helps in conversion of starch to sugar and adds liquid to the ingested food.

The food mixed with saliva then moves from mouth into the pharynx, and then into the oesophagus. It pushes the food further into the sac like structure stomach. This movement of food into the stomach is known as deglutition or swallowing.

Food particles in the stomach mix thoroughly with enzymes and other fluids due to contraction of smooth muscles present in the

stomach. Peristaltic movement propels the food particles into the digestive tract and the pyloric sphincter valve is involved in preventing the movement of food backward from the stomach.

The food which is partially digested in stomach then proceeds in to the small intestine, where most part of the digestion occurs. It is divisible into duodenum and ileum. Pancreatic juice is secreted from the pancreas and bile through the gallbladder from the liver to the small intestine, which helps in completion of digestion.

Absorption of the digested nutrients in digestive system of a frog occurs in small intestine. Absorption unabsorbed nutrients and reabsorption of water takes place in the large intestine. Liquid wastes in frog is passed to the urinary bladder, while solids are routed to the cloaca. Both liquid and solid wastes in frog are expelled out through cloaca which is a slit that opens out finally in digestive system of a frog.

