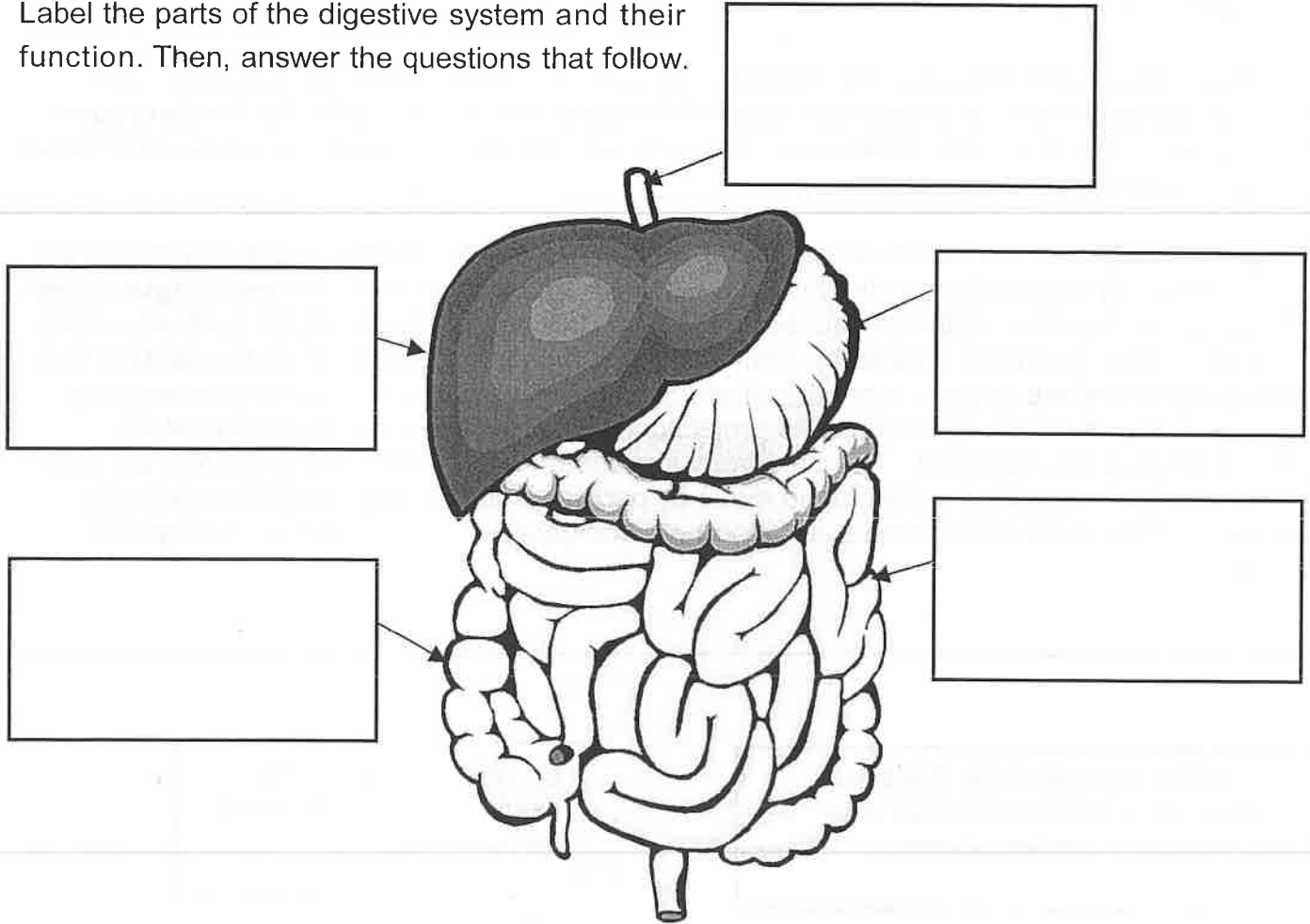


What is the digestive system?

Label the parts of the digestive system and their function. Then, answer the questions that follow.



14. What is digestion? _____

15. What is peristalsis? _____

Skill Challenge

The mouth, liver, and stomach are not part of the digestive tract. However, each of these organs aids or assists digestion in a different way. Complete the chart showing how each of these organs aids digestion.

Organ	How the Organ Helps Digestion
Stomach	
Liver	
Mouth	

Digestive System

The digestive system breaks down food and absorbs nutrients needed by the body. The digestive system is a long system of tubes and organs that is responsible for breaking down complex foods into smaller molecules. These molecules are absorbed into a network of blood vessels and sent to the cells.

Digestion begins in the mouth, where food is broken down into smaller pieces and moistened with saliva. When swallowed, the food moves down a long tube called the **esophagus** (blue) by a squeezing action called peristalsis. Digestion continues in the **stomach** (yellow), where food is broken down into a paste by gastric juices and churning. As soon as the paste enters the **small intestine** (green), more digestive juices from the **liver** (brown) and pancreas mix with it. In the small intestine finger-like projections called villi allow the absorption of the digested food into the blood. The circulatory system transports the digested food to the cells of the body. Indigestible parts of food move by peristalsis to the **large intestine** (orange), where usable water and minerals are absorbed. Indigestible food is expelled through the anus.

Color the organs of the digestive system using the colors listed after each organ in the text above

Esophagus- long tube leading from the mouth to the stomach

Liver- produces enzymes and helps to absorb fats and vitamins

Stomach- food is churned with gastric juices and begins to break down proteins and fats

Large Intestine- removes excess water from indigestible food

Small Intestine- digestion is complete and digested food is absorbed through small villi

