

Teacher Notes

Many vital **functions** have been identified with the **liver**. Some of the more well-known **functions** include the following: Production of bile, which helps carry away waste and break down fats in the small intestine during digestion. Production of certain proteins for blood plasma.

The **gallbladder** is a pear-shaped, hollow structure located under the liver and on the right side of the abdomen. Its primary **function** is to store and concentrate bile, a yellow-brown digestive enzyme produced by the liver. The **gallbladder** is part of the biliary tract.

The **heart** is the key organ in the circulatory system. As a hollow, muscular pump, its main **function** is to propel blood throughout the body. It usually beats from 60 to 100 times per minute, but can go much faster when necessary.

The **lungs** take in oxygen, which the body's cells need to live and carry out their normal **functions**. The **lungs** also get rid of carbon dioxide, a waste product of the cells. The **lungs** are a pair of cone-shaped organs made up of spongy, pinkish-gray tissue.

Major **function** of the **large intestine**. The major **function** of the **large intestine** is to absorb water from the remaining indigestible food matter and transmit the useless waste material from the body.

Functions of the small intestine. The **small intestine** is the part of the **intestines** where 90% of the digestion and absorption of food occurs, the other 10% taking place in the stomach and large **intestine**. The main **function** of the **small intestine** is absorption of nutrients and minerals from food.

The **kidneys** are two bean-shaped organs that extract waste from blood, balance body fluids, form urine, and aid in other important **functions** of the body. They reside against

the back muscles in the upper abdominal cavity. They sit opposite each other on either side of the spine.

The main **function** of the **stomach** is to break down and digest food in order to extract necessary nutrients from what you have eaten. In order for this to happen, it is necessary that the **stomach**, the digestive glands and the intestines must produce various enzymes, including pepsin, and acid.

The urinary **bladder** is a muscular sac in the pelvis, just above and behind the pubic bone. When empty, the **bladder** is about the size and shape of a pear. Urine is made in the kidneys, and travels down two tubes called ureters to the **bladder**. The **bladder** stores urine, allowing urination to be infrequent and voluntary.

The **spleen** is an organ found in almost all vertebrate animals. It mainly acts as a filter for purifying the blood, removing microbes and worn out or damaged red blood cells. It is also an important organ in the immune system, producing the white blood cells that fight infection and synthesize antibodies.

The **pancreas** has dual roles - it is an organ of the digestive system and of the endocrine system. The exocrine **pancreas** produces enzymes that help to digest food, particularly protein. The endocrine **pancreas** makes the hormone insulin, which helps to control blood sugar levels.