

### LEARNING POINTS

State the organs present in the digestive system.

Describe the role and function of the digestive organs.

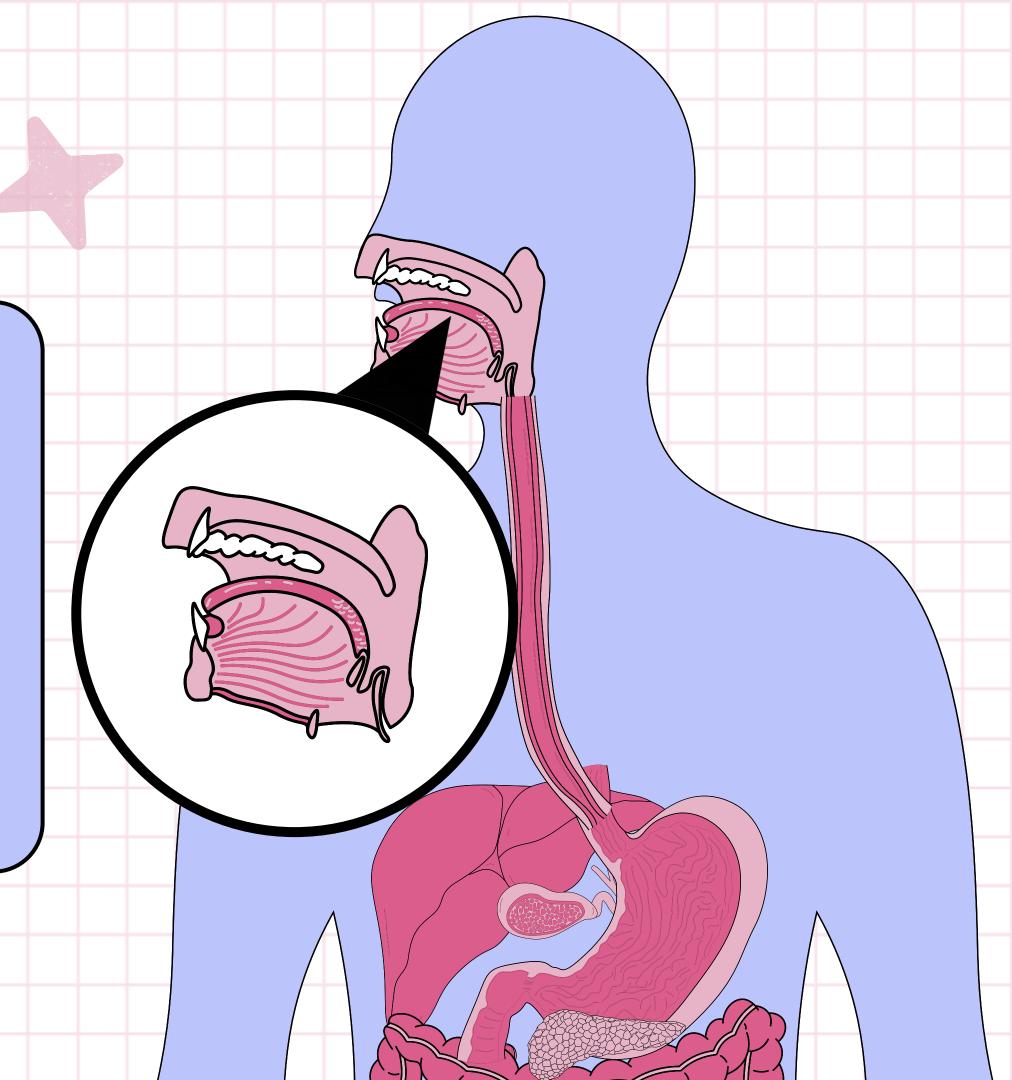
Explain how villi support food absorption.

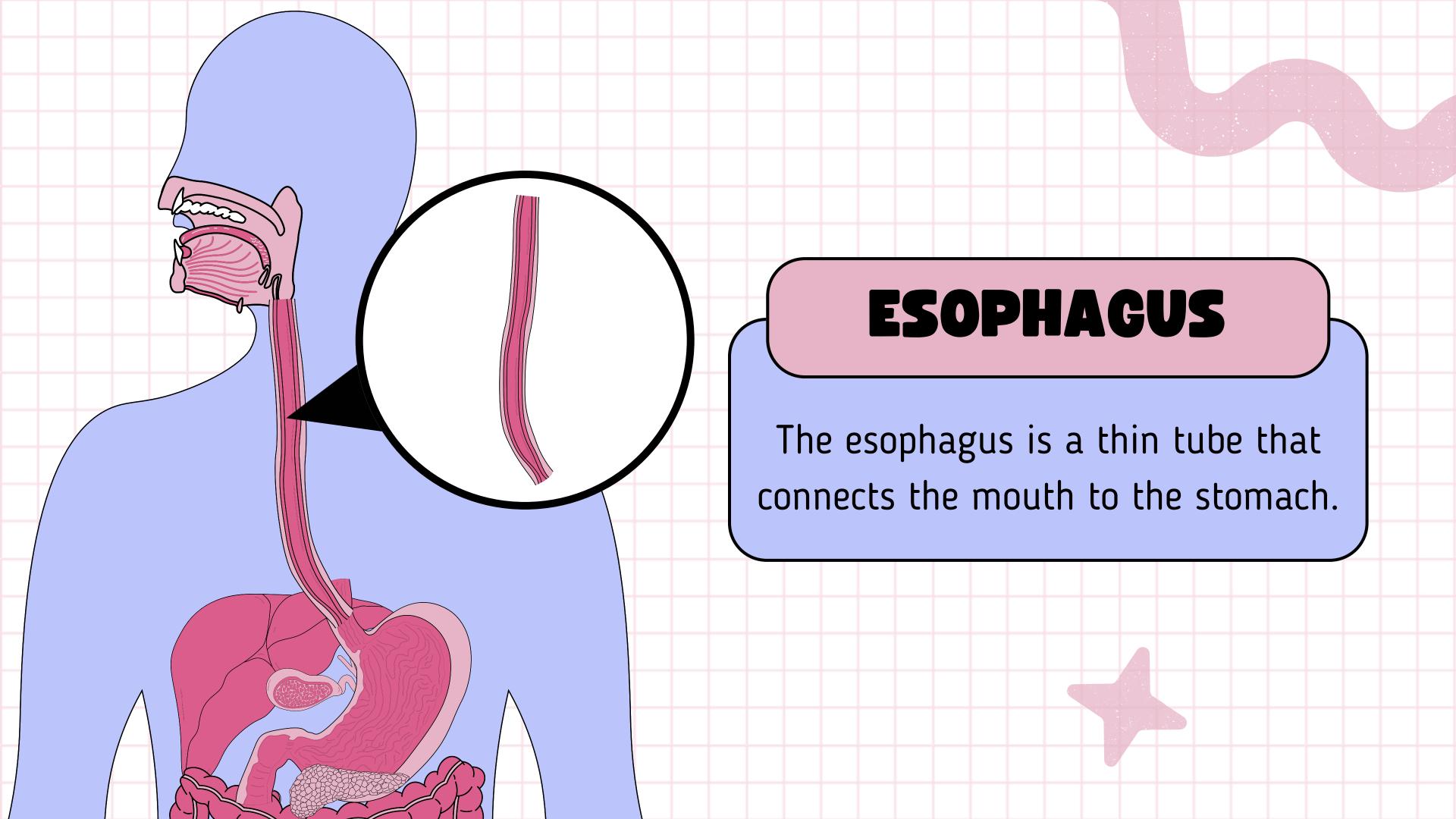
# THE ROLE OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

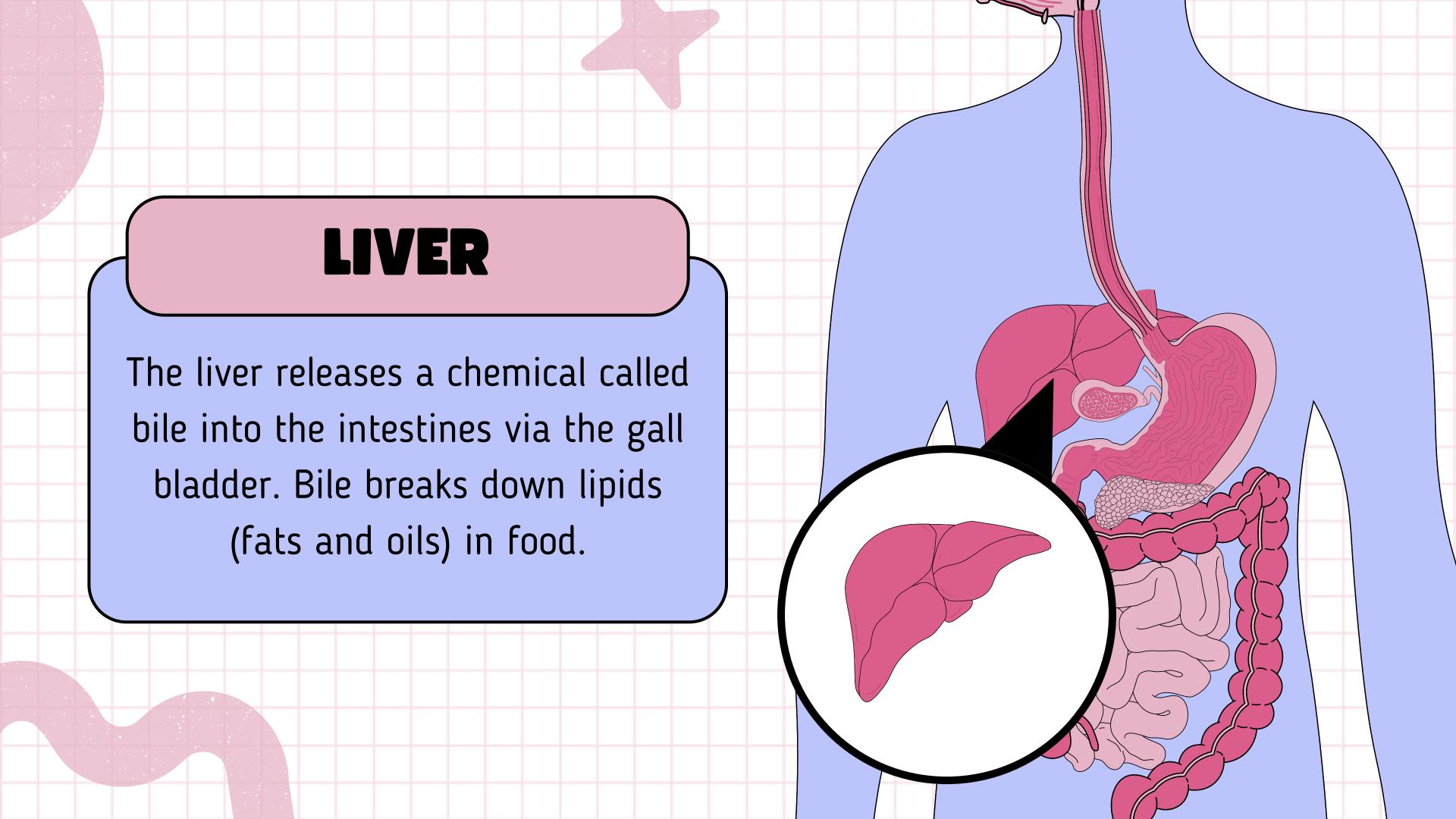
The role of the digestive system is to break down food into tiny particles, which are more easily digested and absorbed into the blood. Food provides us with nutrients required for bodily health, growth and repair. The digestive system also enables the body to release food that cannot be digested in the form of feces (poo).

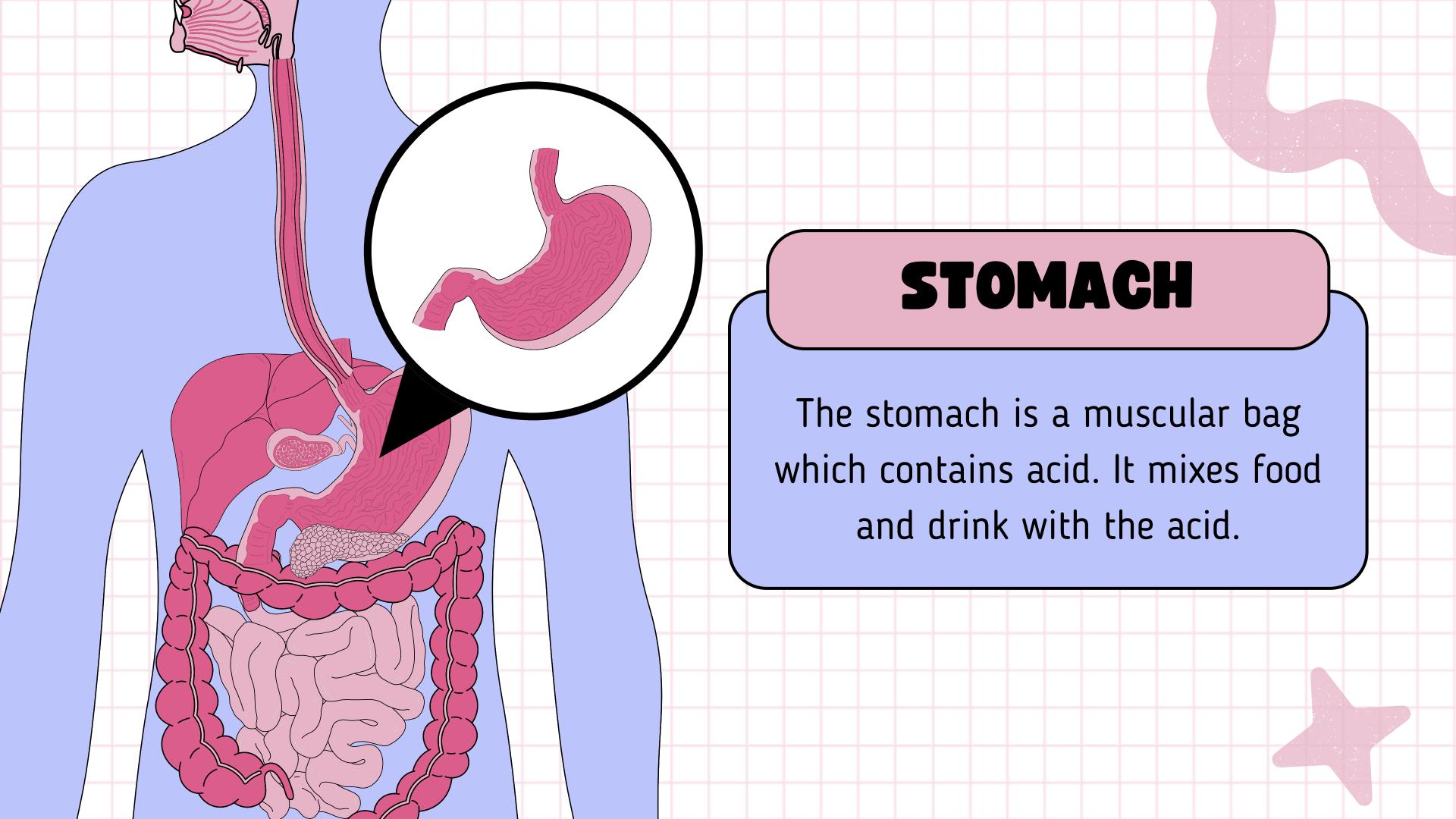
#### MOUTH

This is the start of the digestive system. The teeth mechanically grind down the food. The saliva, made in salivary glands, chemically digests the food using enzymes.



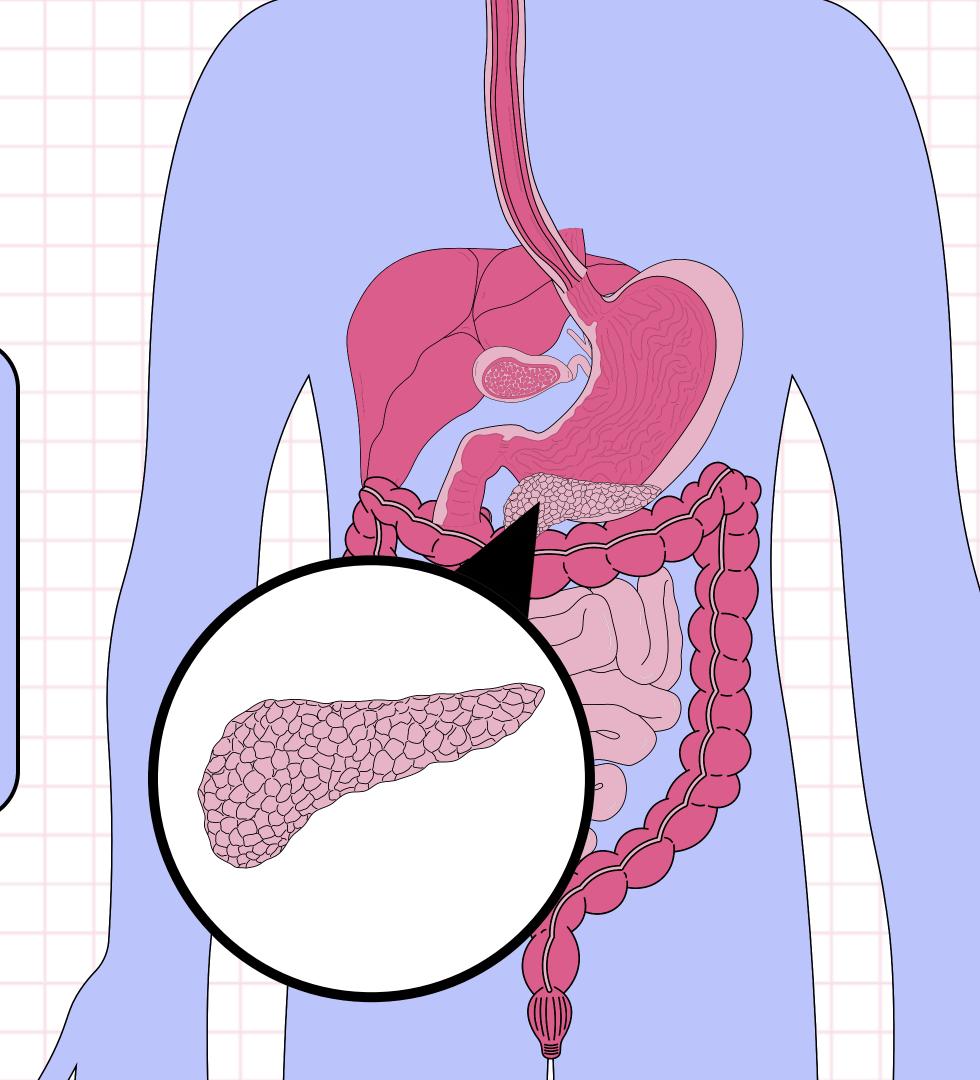


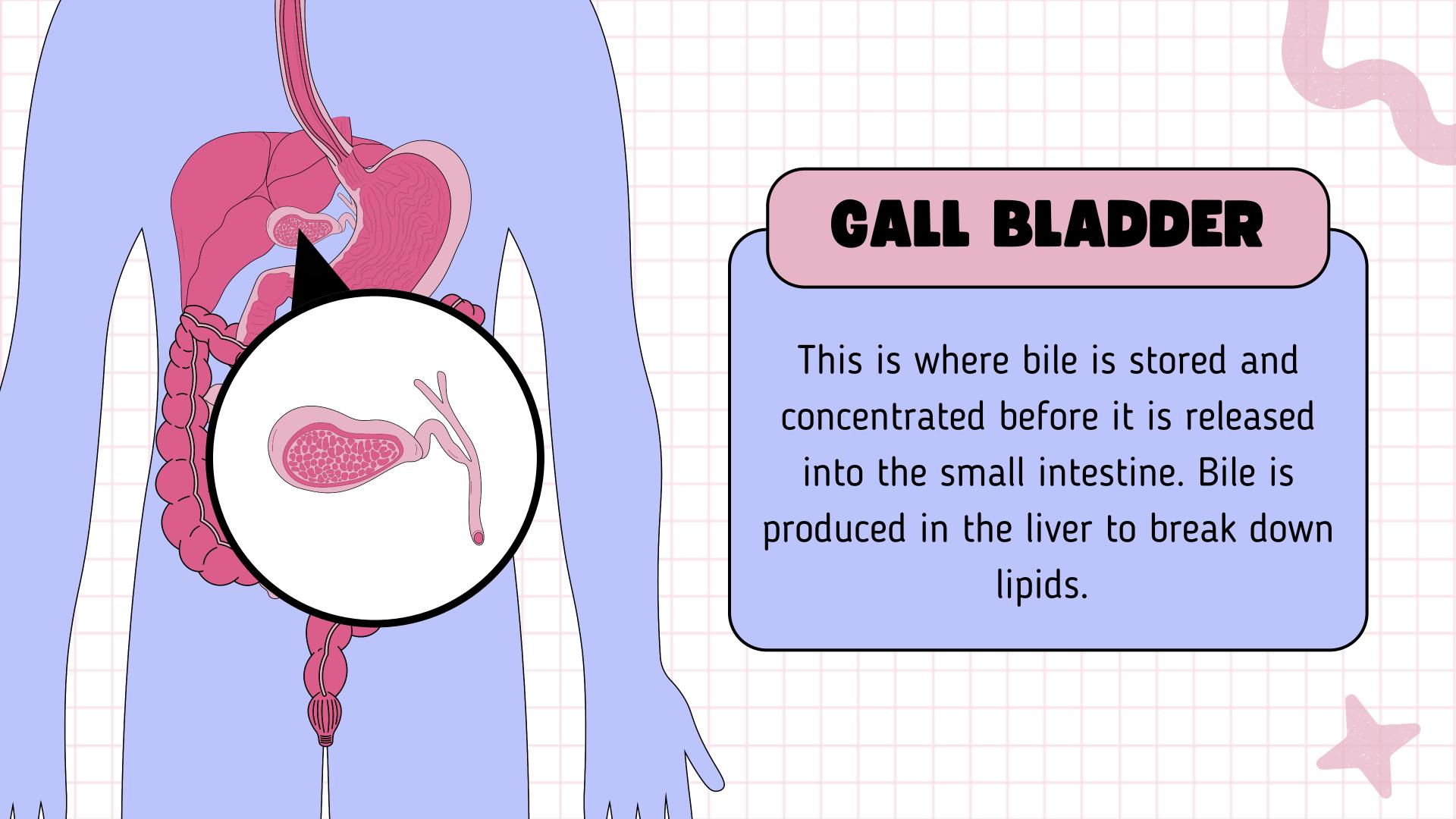




#### PANCREAS

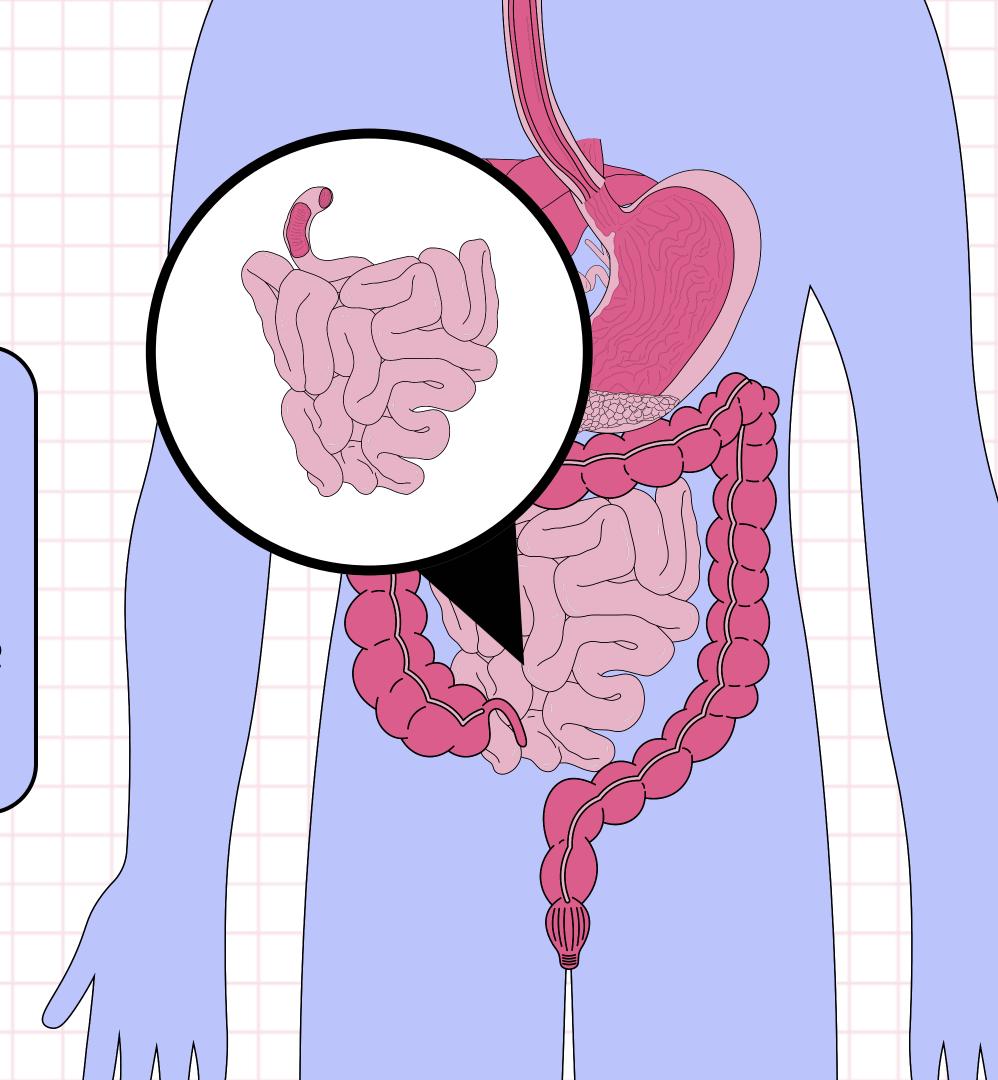
The pancreas releases enzymes into the intestines. Enzymes break down foods such as lipids, proteins and carbohydrates.





## SMALL INTESTINE

Foods such as carbohydrates, proteins and lipids are digested here. Nutrients from these foods are absorbed into the blood.



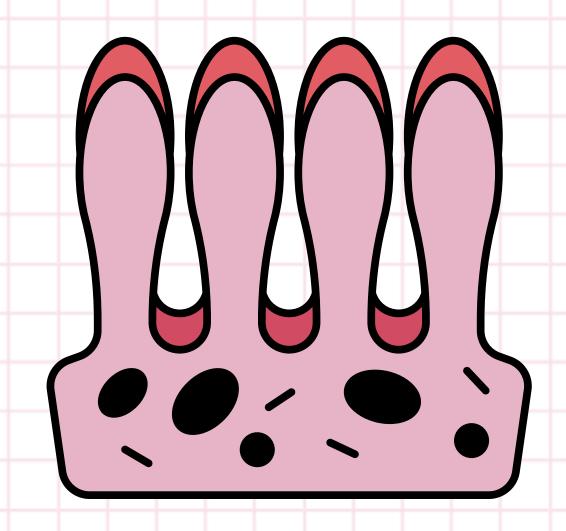
#### THE INTESTINES

The intestines have a large surface area as a result of lots of tiny folds, which absorb nutrients and water.

## ABSORBING FOOD AND WATER

#### VILLI FUNCTION

Specialized projecting structures known as villi, are present in the small intestine. The villi themselves have even smaller hair like projections on their surfaces known as microvilli. The villi have a good blood supply from capillaries, which enable the absorption of nutrients from the gut wall into the blood.



## LARGE INTESTINE

The large intestine contains food which cannot be broken down further, usually fibre. Water is absorbed into the blood.

