Year 5 Science: Digestion, part 2: absorbing nutrients and getting rid of waste

Name: _____ Date: _____

Try these without your notes first, then check the answer key.

Practice

1. In which part of the digestive system are most nutrients absorbed?

2. What is the job of the villi?

3. What is the main job of the large intestine?

4. Give one way that helpful bacteria in your gut help you.

5. Where is waste stored before it leaves the body?

Fix the mistake

6. Correct this statement: "Food goes straight from the stomach into the blood."

7. Correct this statement: "All the bacteria in your gut are harmful germs."

8. Correct this statement: "The large intestine is longer than the small intestine."

9. Correct this statement: "The large intestine absorbs most of the nutrients."

Answer key (for parents and tutors)

1. In which part of the digestive system are most nutrients absorbed?
   The small intestine.
2. What is the job of the villi?
   They give the small intestine a huge surface, so nutrients can pass quickly into the blood.
3. What is the main job of the large intestine?
   To absorb water back into the body.
4. Give one way that helpful bacteria in your gut help you.
   They break down some fibre that your enzymes cannot (they also make some vitamins and help keep harmful germs out).
5. Where is waste stored before it leaves the body?
   In the rectum, until it leaves through the anus.
6. Correct this statement: "Food goes straight from the stomach into the blood."
   Most nutrients are absorbed through the villi of the small intestine, after the food has been fully broken down.
7. Correct this statement: "All the bacteria in your gut are harmful germs."
   Many gut bacteria are helpful: they break down some fibre, make some vitamins and help keep harmful germs out.
8. Correct this statement: "The large intestine is longer than the small intestine."
   The large intestine is wider but much shorter; the small intestine is the longest part.
9. Correct this statement: "The large intestine absorbs most of the nutrients."
   The small intestine absorbs most nutrients; the large intestine's main job is taking back water.