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The animal takes a bite of food.

The food mixes with saliva in the animal’s mouth and is chewed by the teeth.

The food is swallowed.

The food moves down the esophagus.

The food enters the rumen, the largest ruminant’s stomach compartment.

The food is fermented due to the lack of oxygen.

The food enters the reticulum, bands of smooth muscles that look like honeycombs.

Large particles are detected and regurgitated for additional chewing (cud chewing).

The food moves to the omasum which is made of many folds of muscles called plies.

Microbial action and rumen bugs assist in the digestion process.

Nutrients are absorbed from the food and water is squeezed out of the food particles.

The food moves to the small intestine where nutrients are absorbed.

The food moves through the cecum and into the large intestines where water is absorbed.

The food moves to the abomasum which is also called the “true stomach”.

Digestive juices mix with and prepares the food for absorption.

The “left overs” move through the rectum and exit the body through the anus.