

Chicken Digestion

The digestion of food begins in the **beak** of the chicken. In the beak, saliva is mixed with the food so that it can be easily swallowed. The swallowed food then moves to a storage organ called the **crop** and then through to the true stomach of the bird called the **proventriculus**. Here, the food is further mixed with more enzymes to assist with the breakdown of the food. The food then moves to a grinding organ called the **gizzard**. Grit and gravel that has been picked up by the bird helps to grind or crush the food particles in this organ. The food then passes through the **duodenal loop** and into the **small intestine**, where absorption of food particles primarily occurs. Undigested particles then pass through two pouches called **ceca**, where the water is absorbed from the food. The remaining undigested food particles then pass through the **colon** and rectum to the cloaca, where they are excreted.

Digestive System of a Chicken

