Digestion Large Intestine

Large Intestine
- Contains friendly bacteria
- No digestion happens
- Absorption of water takes place

Absorption + Production of Vitamins
- The bacteria live on undigested food material
  • They produce:
    - Vitamin K (Blood Clotting)
    - B Vitamins
- If prolonged doses of antibiotics are given they can destroy intestinal bacteria
  • This can result in a vitamin K deficiency

Elimination
- Removal of undigested + indigestible material = feces

Gross Anatomy
- 1.5 meters (5ft) long ~ 7.5cm (3in) wide
- Larger diameter + thinner walls than small intestine
- The boundary between sm + lg intestines is guarded by ileocecal valve

Landmarks
- Chyme enters cecum (an expanded chamber)
- The vermiform appendix - Slender attachment to cecum
  • If inflamed = appendicitis