KEY CONCEPT
Nutrients are absorbed and solid wastes eliminated after digestion.
32.3 Absorption of Nutrients

Most absorption of nutrients occurs in the small intestine.

- Three structures in the small intestine help absorb nutrients.
  - folded lining: adds surface area, slows food
  - villi: absorb nutrients
  - microvilli: cover villi. absorb nutrients
32.3 Absorption of Nutrients

- Duodenum, jejunum, and ileum absorb different nutrients.
- Nutrients enter the circulatory or lymphatic systems.
- Liver stores excess glucose for future use.
32.3 Absorption of Nutrients

- Water is absorbed and solid wastes are eliminated from the large intestine.
  - The colon helps to maintain the body’s fluid balance.
  - Undigested material forms the solid feces.
    - stored in rectum
    - eliminated through anus
32.3 Absorption of Nutrients

- The large intestine contains many bacteria.
  - some synthesize important vitamins
  - Some, like *E. coli*, can cause illness