

Moving Right Along Lab

1. Collect materials for your group.
2. Unroll about 40cm of the tube.
3. Using the chart to the right, measure and place a piece of masking tape to mark on the tubing the approximate length of each organ of the digestive tract. Start at the opening of the tube, which represents the opening of the mouth. The mouth is about 11 cm long; therefore, you should place your first piece of masking tape 11cm from the opening of the tube. **Using that mark as a starting point**, then measure 25cm more, which will represent the esophagus. Continue measuring and placing your tape until you reach the mark for the anus, the opening at the end of the rectum. Double-check your measurements to make sure they are correct.
4. Using the marker, label each piece of masking tape with the appropriate organ. There should be extra tubing after the last piece of masking tape. Just keep it there.
5. Pick up the tube and place the tennis ball into the tubing.
6. Taking turns, move the tennis ball through the tube. Be sure to keep the tube horizontal at all times. Give everyone a chance to squeeze. While you are squeezing, think about the following questions:
 - 1) What does the tennis ball represent?
 - 2) How was the movement of the tennis ball similar to the movement of food as it passes through the digestive tract?
 - 3) How was the movement of the tennis ball different to the movement of food as it passes through the digestive tract?
 - 4) What could be added to make the movement of the tennis ball through the tubing easier?
 - 5) What was surprising about the digestive system that you found from this lab?
7. Continue squeezing until the ball pops out of the tube then take the piece of tape off the tubing and throw away the tape while rolling up the tubing.
8. Place the rolled up tubing on the blue table and go back to your group.
9. Everyone in the group should answer the five questions in their comp book. You do not need to write out the questions.
10. When asked, go back to your assigned seat and be prepared to share your answers with the class.

| Organ | Length (cm) |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Mouth | 11 |
| Esophagus | 25 |
| Stomach | 22 |
| Small Intestine | 690 |
| Large Intestine | 152 |
| Rectum | 14 |