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

- Ceca
- Colon
- Beak
- Small Intestine
- Crop
- Duodenal Loop
- Proventriculus
- Gizzard