Digestive System Model

Messy but fun.

Use some kneehigh hose.
Cut a small opening at the toe end..
Put some crackers in the large end of the leg. The students should see that the larger objects will not move down the leg until the objects are broken. Ask the student what part of the digestive system allows them to break down large bites of food.
Have the students breakup the larger crackers while still in the hose. They might see that it is best to keep the top closed (chew with your mouth closed)
Add just enough water to some crackers to make a thick paste. Put a blob of this in the hose. Ask the students how they can move this blob (bolus) to the other end of the hose. (peristalsis).
As the students work the paste and solids through the hose some water and tiny bits of food leak out.  Ask students what happens to the material that is "leaked out" of our intestines. Carried away in the blood stream.
Some undigested material will exit at the toe end of the hose.

Have the students complete a two column table at the end of this activity.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| How the model is like the digestive system | How the model is different from the digestive system |
|  |  |

After the students complete their table make a summary table, with each student adding one thing to the table. Start with your weakest students so they will be able to add at least one thing.