

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Journey of Waste: What Happens to Waste Products After Digestion

### Short Answer Key

1. Beneficial bacteria in the large intestine help break down undigested carbohydrates and fiber, fermenting them and aiding in their breakdown.
2. The rectum serves as a temporary holding area for stool until it is ready to be eliminated from the body.
3. A balanced diet with plenty of fiber and fluids, along with regular physical activity, supports healthy digestion and elimination by promoting regular bowel movements and preventing constipation.
4. When the rectum is full, it triggers the urge for a bowel movement because it signals that the stool is ready to be eliminated from the body.
5. Animal waste can contribute nutrients to the soil when it breaks down in the environment, benefiting plants and the ecosystem.

