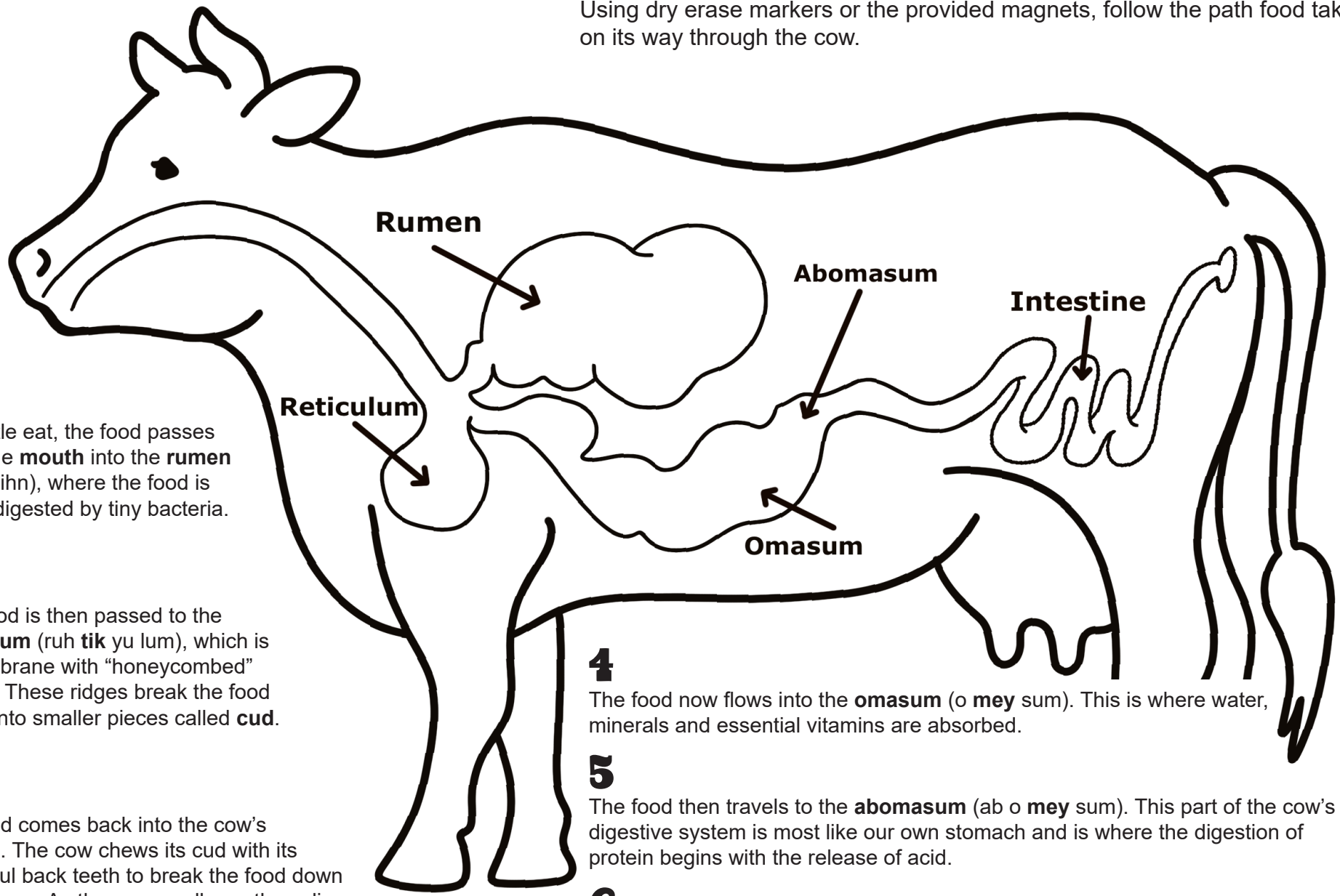


Chew It Twice

Did you know that a cow spends six hours eating and eight hours chewing its cud each day?

Using dry erase markers or the provided magnets, follow the path food takes on its way through the cow.



1

As cattle eat, the food passes from the **mouth** into the **rumen** (**roo mihn**), where the food is partly digested by tiny bacteria.

2

The food is then passed to the **reticulum** (**ruh tik yu lum**), which is a membrane with “honeycombed” ridges. These ridges break the food down into smaller pieces called **cud**.

3

The cud comes back into the cow’s **mouth**. The cow chews its cud with its powerful back teeth to break the food down even more. As the cow swallows, the saliva washes the cud back into the cow’s system.

4

The food now flows into the **omasum** (**o mey sum**). This is where water, minerals and essential vitamins are absorbed.

5

The food then travels to the **abomasum** (**ab o mey sum**). This part of the cow’s digestive system is most like our own stomach and is where the digestion of protein begins with the release of acid.

6

When food moves into the **intestines**, more nutrients are absorbed, and unused food portions are stored until there is enough to be expelled as cow manure.