

How the structure of the villus is related to its role in absorption of the end products of digestion

The structure of the small intestine is specially adapted for absorption to occur efficiently. It has many folds, which help increase the surface area. The lining is covered in tiny projections called villi (singular villus). The villi increase the surface area even more making absorption even more efficient.

Using Figure 9.11 in the textbook to help you, label this simplified diagram of a villus. Indicate on the diagram where fats and fat-soluble vitamins are absorbed, and where nutrients such as glucose, amino acids and water-soluble vitamins are absorbed.

