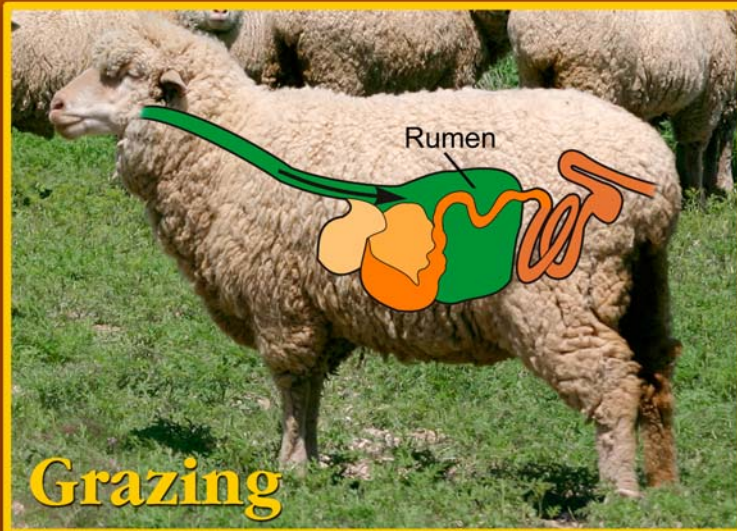


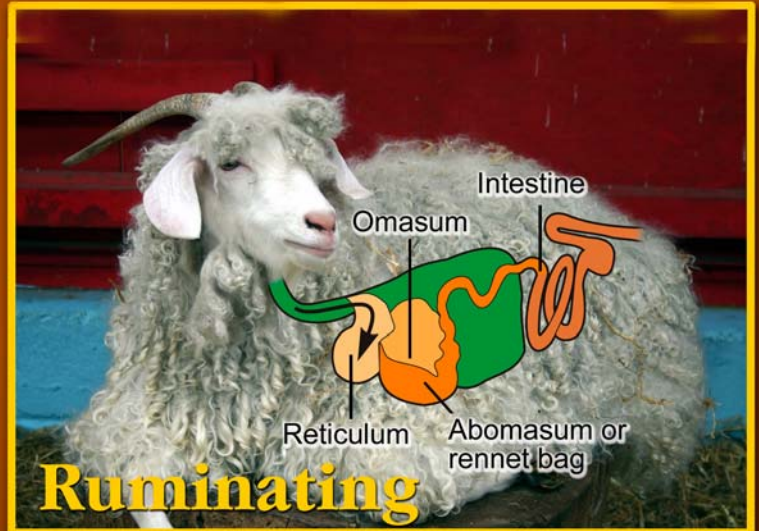
RUMINANTS

Sheep and Goats are called ruminants because they are hooved, cud-chewing animals that lack upper incisor teeth; and have a four-compartment stomach: the rumen, the reticulum, the omasum, and the abomasum.



Plant material is chewed a little before being swallowed.

Part-digested food is stored in the rumen where it is broken down into cud by bacterial action.



Cud is regurgitated and chewed again while the ruminant is lying down.

Food swallowed for the second time bypasses the rumen.

Food is finally processed by acids and digestive enzymes in the other stomach chambers.

Other ruminants include cattle, buffalo, deer, elk and giraffes.