

St Mark's Word of the Week



Ruminant

Are you familiar with this word?

What does it mean?

How is it linked to animals?



Ruminate (verb)

Definition

- think deeply about something.

Examples:

- They spend the rest of the evening ruminating on the problem.
- They ruminate on finding lessons in everything around them.
- They ruminated about their loss.
- They were someone who often ruminated.

Can you come up with your own?



Ruminates (verb)

Definition

- think deeply about something.

Can you think of any synonyms for ruminates?

- Ponder
- Consider
- Meditate
- Brood
- Deliberate
- Reflect
- Chew over
- Mull over

Can you think of any antonyms for ruminates?

- Discard
- Disregard
- Neglect
- Ignore



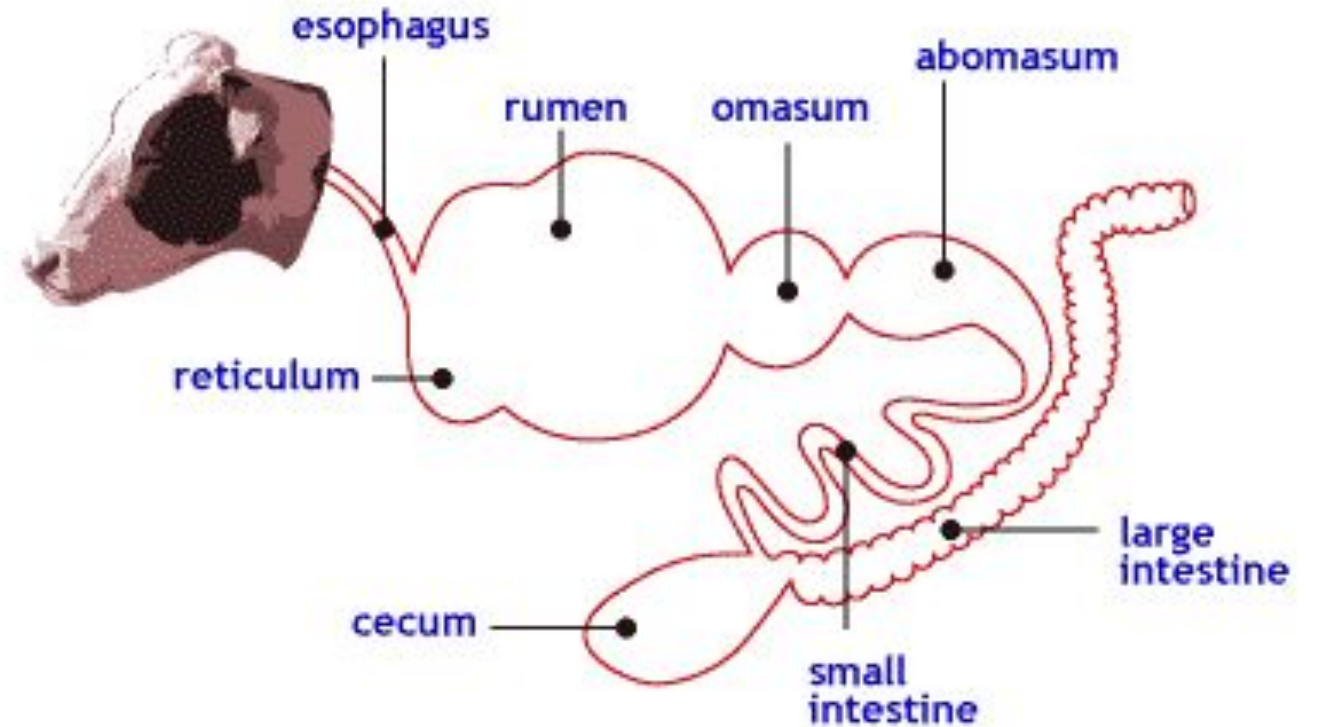
Where does ruminant come from? What is its etymology?



These animals all eat food that is difficult to digest.

To get the nutrients they need from it they have to do two things:

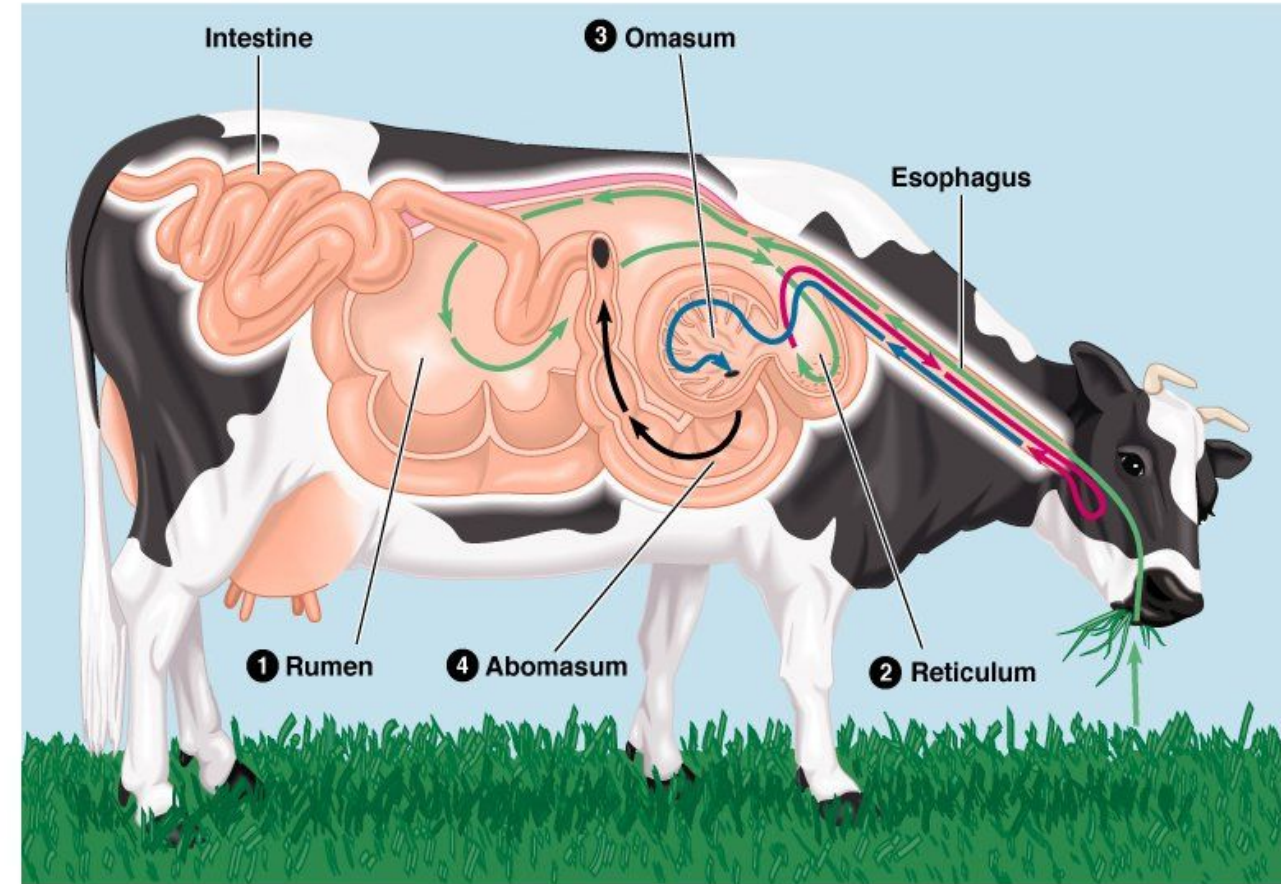
1. Have a chamber in their stomach called a rumen where they ferment their food.



Where does ruminant come from? What is its etymology?

1. Have a chamber in their stomach called a rumen where they ferment their food.
2. They bring the food back up from their stomach into their mouths to chew it more. This is called chewing the cud.

These animals are called ruminants because they ruminate their food. But how could this come to mean 'to think deeply about something'?



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These animals spend a long time breaking something down literally, we can spend a long time breaking something down metaphorically by thinking about it.