## Why does a sheep have four stomachs?

Sheep need four stomachs to digest the fibrous food they eat. The first three stomachs make the fibrous foods into a 'soup' and in the fourth stomach, which is like a human stomach, digestion really begins.

- The first stomach is the rumen (say roomen) it contains a lot of liquid and millions of 'friendly bacteria' which make a grassy soup. Sometimes the sheep sends a mouthful of soup back up to the mouth for more chewing (this is chewing the cud).
- The second stomach is the reticulum (say ret-ick-yoo-lum). The 'soup' is squeezed between here and the rumen to mush it up.
- The third stomach is the omasum (say oh-may-sum). This stomach makes sure the soup is smooth and not lumpy.



- The fourth stomach is the abomasum (say ab-oh-may-sum). This is like a human stomach and is where Roddy and Vincent feed.
- The abomasum leads to the intestine (say in-test-tine). Tina lives here.



