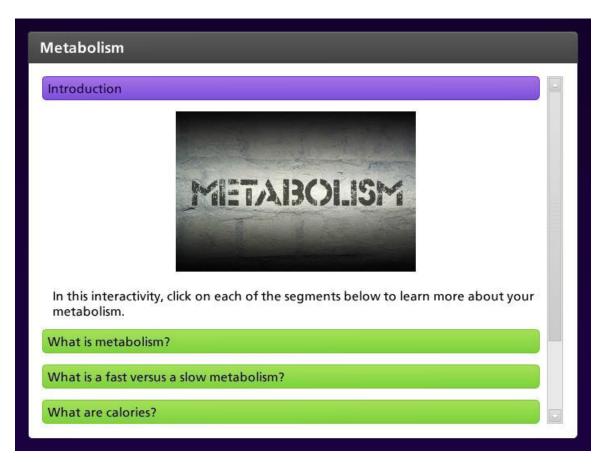
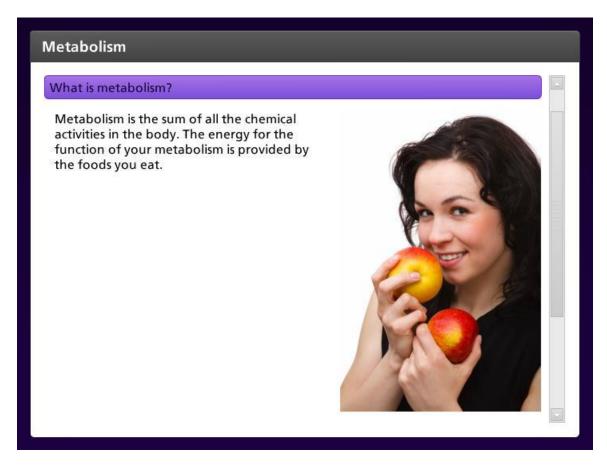
### Introduction



In this interactivity, click on each of the segments below to learn more about your metabolism.



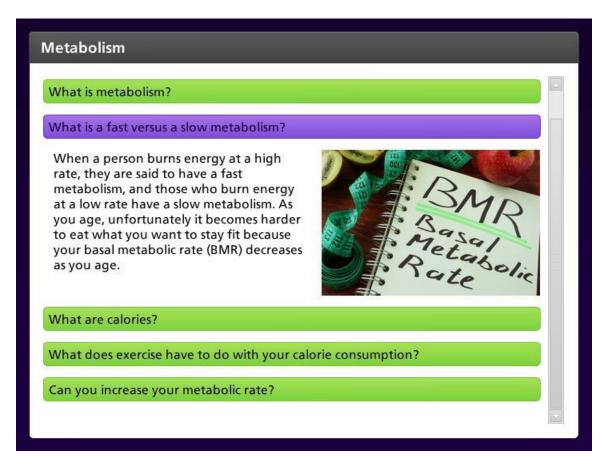
#### What is metabolism?



Metabolism is the sum of all the chemical activities in the body. The energy for the function of your metabolism is provided by the foods you eat.



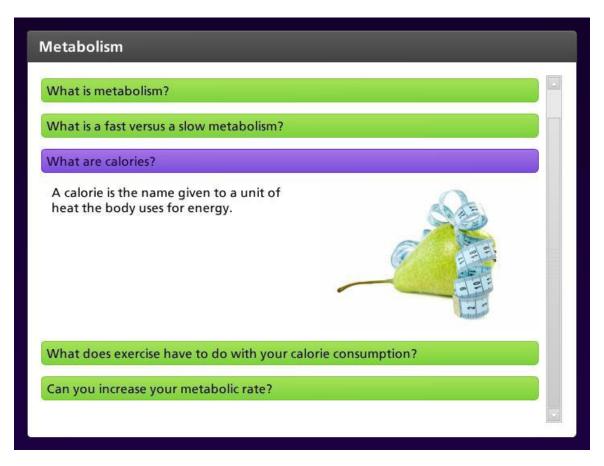
### What is a fast versus a slow metabolism?



When a person burns energy at a high rate, they are said to have a fast metabolism, and those who burn energy at a low rate have a slow metabolism. As you age, unfortunately it becomes harder to eat what you want to stay fit because your basal metabolic rate (BMR) decreases as you age.



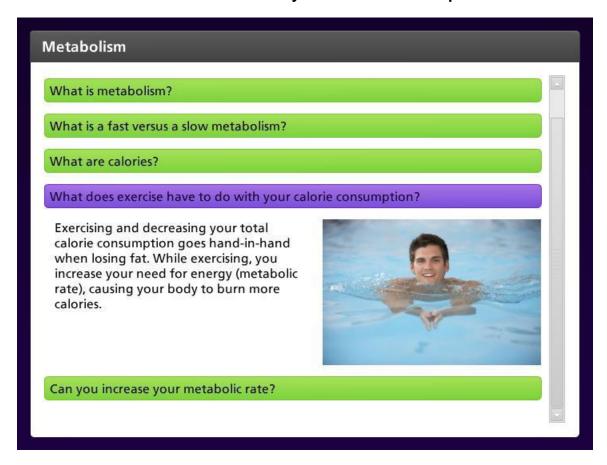
#### What are calories?



A calorie is the name given to a unit of heat the body uses for energy.



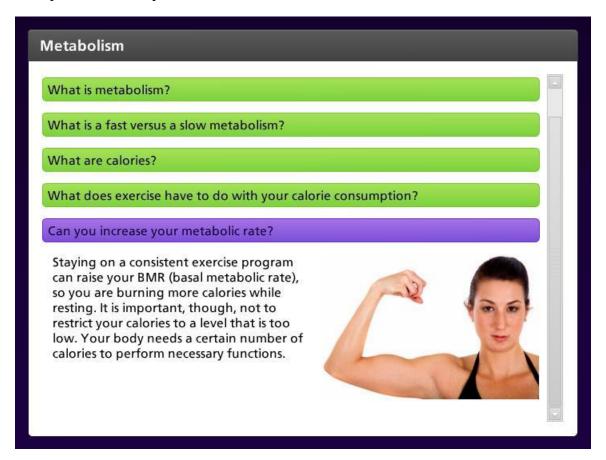
What does exercise have to do with your calorie consumption?



Exercising and decreasing your total calorie consumption goes hand-in-hand when losing fat. While exercising, you increase your need for energy (metabolic rate), causing your body to burn more calories.



### Can you increase your metabolic rate?



Staying on a consistent exercise program can raise your BMR (basal metabolic rate), so you are burning more calories while resting. It is important, though, not to restrict your calories to a level that is too low. Your body needs a certain number of calories to perform necessary functions.

