

The Human Body The Human Heart

The heart is a muscular organ a little bigger than the size of a person's fist. It constantly works to pump blood throughout veins in the body. With every beat, blood is sent out with oxygen and food to all the body's cells. The heart works to circulate blood, so that your body can get everything it needs. Without your heart, you wouldn't be alive.

The heart is divided into two sections. Both sides pump at the same time. Veins throughout the body carry blood to the right-side pump. That pump then sends blood to the lungs. There, it picks up oxygen. The oxygen-rich blood then flows to the left-side pump. The left pump sends the **oxygenated**¹ blood back throughout the body.

Another important function of the heart is to move the blood. As it **deposits**² oxygen and food through the body, blood also collects waste. Most of this waste is carbon dioxide. When blood carrying carbon dioxide reaches the lungs, it swaps the carbon dioxide for oxygen. The heart and the lungs work together in this very important cycle. That's why we need to take special care of our hearts and lungs. Try your best to eat well, exercise and don't smoke cigarettes!

¹ **Oxygenated**- filled with oxygen

² **Deposits**- places

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Every time a heart beats it causes
 - a. blood to pump through the body.
 - b. oxygen to enter your lungs.
 - c. your nose to bleed.
 - d. your veins to get smaller.

2. What happens when your heart sends blood to the lungs?
 - a. The blood loses its oxygen.
 - b. The blood takes on waste.
 - c. The blood drops off nutrients.
 - d. The blood takes in oxygen.

3. According to the passage, the word “swaps” means
 - a. pathways
 - b. exchanges
 - c. rides
 - d. rakes

4. All of the following describe the heart *except*.
 - a. tiny
 - b. muscular
 - c. important
 - d. hardworking

5. What happens first?
 - a. The left pump sends oxygenated blood to the body.
 - b. Veins carry blood to the heart.
 - c. The right pump sends blood to the lungs.
 - d. The blood picks up oxygen.

6. What's the worst that can happen to people who don't take care of their heart?

7. Why is it so important that both parts of the heart work together?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Blood carries other things throughout the body _____ just oxygen and food.

- a. with
- b. besides
- c. to
- d. by

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Veins throughout the body carry blood to the right side of the heart so that it can be pumped to the lungs.

What? veins throughout the body

(do) What? _____

(to) Where? _____

Why? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** circulate: move something through an area.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 720

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: This passage describes the heart and its function in the human body.

1. Every time a heart beats it causes
 - a. **blood to pump through the body.**
 - b. oxygen to enter your lungs.
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 - a. The blood loses its oxygen.
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 - d. **The blood takes in oxygen.**

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 - a. pathways
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4. All of the following describe the heart *except*
 - a. **tiny**
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5. What happens first?
 - a. The left pump sends oxygenated blood to the body.
 - b. **Veins carry blood to the heart.**
 - c. The right pump sends blood to the lungs.
 - d. The blood picks up oxygen.

6. What's the worst that can happen to people who don't take care of their heart?

Suggested answer: Since a person can't live without his or her heart, he or she might die.

7. Why is it so important that both parts of the heart work together?

Suggested answer: Both parts of the heart do very important work. The right side receives the blood from the body, while the left side receives the blood from the lungs. If one side weren't working, the heart could not function because the blood cycles through each half and each half has an important job.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

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- a. with
- b. besides**
- c. to
- d. by

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Veins throughout the body carry blood to the right side of the heart so that it can be pumped to the lungs.

What? veins throughout the body

(do) What? **carry blood**

(to) Where? **the right-side pump of the heart**

Why? **so that it can be pumped to the lungs**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** circulate: move something through an area.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.