

## Vocabulary: Circulatory System



### Vocabulary

- Artery – a blood vessel that carries blood away from the heart.
  - Except for the pulmonary artery, all arteries transport oxygen-rich blood.
- Atrium – either of the two upper chambers of the heart that receives blood from veins.
- Blood vessel – a tube in the body through which blood flows.
  - Adult humans have over 40 billion blood vessels. Stretched end to end, they would circle the Earth four times!
- Capillary – a tiny blood vessel.
  - Capillaries exchange oxygen, glucose, and other materials with body cells.
- Circulatory system – the body system that includes the heart, blood vessels, and blood.
  - The circulatory system transports oxygen, nutrients, and other materials to cells.
  - The circulatory system removes carbon dioxide, urea, and other wastes from cells.
- Heart – the muscular organ that pumps blood throughout the body.
  - The human heart contains four chambers: the right atrium, the right ventricle, the left atrium, and the left ventricle.
- Heart valves – structures that open and close to control blood flow through the heart.
  - Heart valves only allow blood to flow in one direction.
  - There are four valves in the heart.
    - The two atrioventricular valves open to allow blood to flow from the atria to the ventricles.
    - The two semilunar valves open to allow blood to flow from the ventricles to the arteries.
- Platelet – a small blood cell that helps the blood to clot.
- Pulmonary artery – the artery that carries blood from the right ventricle to the lungs.
- Pulmonary vein – the vein that carries blood from the lungs to the left atrium.
- Red blood cell – a blood cell that carries oxygen throughout the body.
- Urea – a waste product in the blood that comes from the breakdown of proteins.

- Ventricle – either of the two lower chambers of the heart that pumps blood through arteries.
- Vein – a blood vessel that carries blood to the heart.
  - Except for the pulmonary vein, all veins transport oxygen-poor blood.
- White blood cell – a blood cell that fights infection by destroying microscopic, disease-causing organisms.

