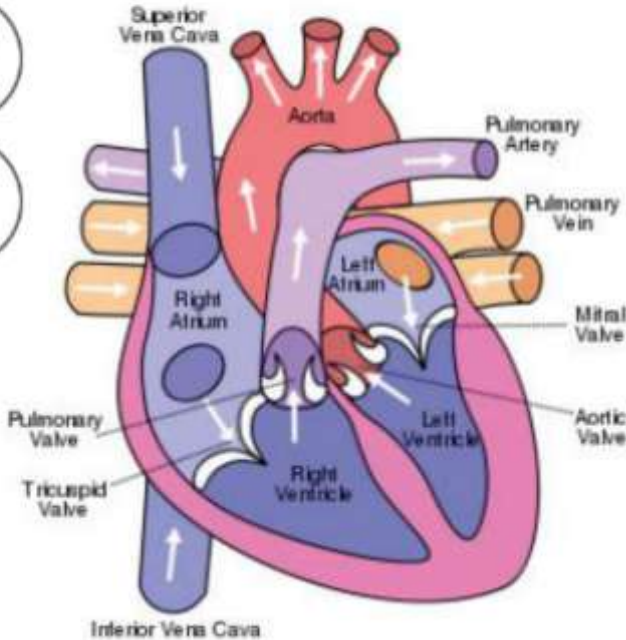




Year 6 Reading Comprehension week beginning Tuesday 14th April 2020.

The Human Heart



The human heart is an amazing organ of the human body. The **heart** is an organ which pumps life-giving blood throughout the body. It works together with blood and blood vessels to supply all of the needs of the cells.

The **circulatory system** of the body makes up the heart, blood and blood vessels. **Blood vessels** are tubes which carry the blood. **Blood** carries oxygen and food to the cells of the body. The blood then returns to the heart.

The heart is located in the middle of the chest and slightly to the left. It is divided into two halves and has two hollow spaces or chambers. The blood enters the **atrium**, which

is the upper chamber and is then pumped to the **ventricles**, two lower chambers. Blood from the ventricles goes to the lungs and to every cell in the body. A **valve** in each ventricle stops the blood from flowing backwards.

An **artery** is a blood vessel which carries blood away from the heart. A main artery may be as thick as a thumb.

Blood is made up of red cells, white cells and platelets floating in a fluid called plasma. Plasma is a liquid and can easily pass through small blood vessels into cells and makes up over one-half of the blood. The plasma carries **nutrients** (food) from the stomach to be used as fuel for energy. Plasma also helps keep the body warm.

The blood then returns to the heart through blood vessels called **veins**. The veins on the skin, may look blue, especially on the hands and arms. The walls of a vein are much thinner than those of an artery. Two large veins bring the blood back to the heart. One comes from the brain and the chest. The other comes from the stomach and lower body.

Blood doesn't flow at the same speed through all of the body. As it gets farther away from the heart, it slows down. It goes slowly when the red blood cells carrying the food and oxygen squeeze through into the cells.

The heart beats or pumps every second of the day or night. It beats or pumps 100,000 times a day, every day of a person's life. Every time a heart beats or pumps out a stream of blood, this beat, called a **pulse**, can be felt on the inside of the wrist. The **pulse rate** in an adult is between

sixty and one hundred beats per minute. Children's pulse rates range from ninety to one hundred twenty beats per minute.

In summary, the circulatory system which includes the heart, blood vessels and blood, work together to supply the cells with all the food and oxygen a body needs to maintain life. Blood is made up of red cells, white cells and platelets floating in a fluid called plasma. Arteries carry blood away from the heart, and veins carry the blood back to the heart. The heart beats thousands of times a day, every day. It beats much faster in children. The human heart is an amazing organ which is part of a system of many veins, arteries, and vessels which moves blood throughout the body keeping humans alive.

Year 6 Reading Comprehension - Questions



Q1) *It works together with blood and blood vessels to supply all of the needs of the cells.*

What does the word *supply* mean in this sentence? Circle one.

store provide substitute collect

Q2) Look at paragraph one. **Find** and **copy a phrase** which shows that the heart is essential to humans surviving.

Q3) Look at the paragraph beginning: *The heart is located in the middle of the chest...*

Find and **one word** which shows that the heart has an empty space inside.



Q4) Using your own words, write a sentence to explain what the main purpose of the heart is.

Q5) What is the name scientists have given the blood vessel which carries blood away from the heart?

Q6) Which of the following is **not** true?

The heart beats every minute of the day.

Blood flows at the same speed through all of the body.

The heart is located a little to the left of the centre of the chest.

Veins carry blood back to the heart.

Q7) Look at page 1. What do veins look like through our skin?

Q8) According to the text, what is the range of pulse rates for a child?

Q9) What makes up over one-half of our blood?

Q10) Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is a **fact** or an **opinion**.

	Fact	Opinion
The human heart is an amazing organ of the human body.		
The walls of a vein are much thinner than those of an artery.		
The heart sounds like a drum when it pumps.		
Plasma is a liquid.		