

Vocabulary

Use the vocabulary words and definitions below as a reference for this unit.

- arteries** blood vessels that contain blood traveling away from the heart
- atrium** the top chamber of both sides of the heart (*pl.* atria)
- bile** a substance produced in the liver and stored in the gall bladder that works specifically to dissolve fat in the small intestine
- bones** sections of the skeleton; serve as the framework for the body, anchors for the muscles, factories for blood cells, and storage places for calcium
- bronchi** the two branches of the windpipe that descend to the right and left lungs (*sing.* bronchus)
- capillaries** tiny blood vessels where pickup of wastes and delivery of oxygen and food takes place; connect arteries to veins
- cardiac muscle** tightly woven involuntary muscle that makes up heart muscle
- cartilage** a soft, flexible substance that sometimes hardens into bone as it ages

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diaphragm the dome-shaped muscle at the base of the chest cavity that contracts and lowers to draw oxygen into the lungs, then relaxes and rises to push carbon dioxide out

enzymes proteins that speed up the breakdown of food into molecules in the digestive system; also speed up chemical reactions

epiglottis a little flap of tissue in the throat that protects the opening to the windpipe

esophagus the tube that carries food to the stomach

hemoglobin the protein that colors red blood cells and allows them to carry oxygen to the tissues

involuntary muscles muscles that operate completely outside of conscious thought, whether we want them to do so or not

larynx also known as the voice box; a structure in the windpipe in which the vocal cords vibrate with passing air to make sound

ligaments tough fibers that help hold bones together

nephrons tiny filtering units in the kidneys

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- organ** a body structure made up of a number of cell tissues that works as a unit to perform a specific function
Example: heart, lungs, brain
- periosteum** a tough layer of tissue covering the outside of the bone
- plasma** the liquid part of the blood
- platelets** pieces of larger cells formed in the bone marrow that have no nuclei and are even smaller than red blood cells; they work with proteins in the plasma to clot the blood
- red blood cells** small, disk-shaped cells containing hemoglobin; they deliver oxygen to body cells and pick up carbon dioxide
- saliva** a fluid released from glands in the mouth that soaks into food and helps in chewing, swallowing, and digesting
- skeletal muscles** voluntary muscles that move the bones of the skeleton
Example: muscles found in arms and legs
- smooth muscle** involuntary muscle contained in many parts of the body
Example: muscles found in walls of stomach, intestines, and blood vessels
- solid bone** very dense and strong; a storage place for calcium; usually found around the edges of bones

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spongy bone has many small holes; strong, like solid bone, but more lightweight; usually found at the end of bones

tendons strong fibers that attach muscles to bone

urea a waste product that is made up of leftover parts of used proteins and is high in nitrogen

urethra the passageway out of the body for urine

urine urea and other waste substances that are collected in the bladder

veins blood vessels that contain blood traveling back to the heart

ventricle the bottom chamber of both sides of the heart

voluntary muscles muscles you choose to use at will

white blood cells cells that surround and destroy microorganisms that invade the body; larger than red blood cells