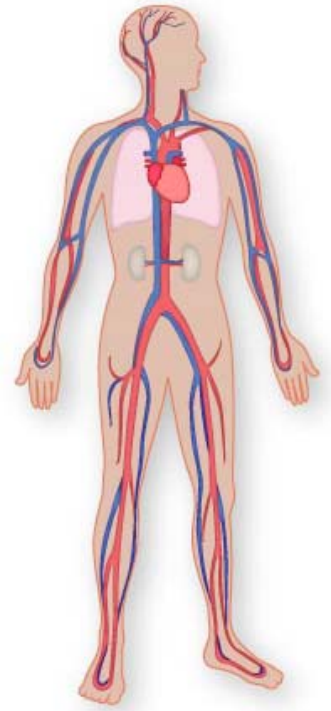


CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

The cardiovascular system includes the heart and the blood vessels. The heart pumps blood, and the blood vessels channel and deliver it throughout the body. Arteries carry blood filled with nutrients away from the heart to all parts of the body. Arteries are thick-walled tubes with a circular covering of yellow, elastic fibers, which contain a filling of muscle that absorbs the tremendous pressure wave of a heartbeat and slows the blood down. Eventually arteries divide into smaller arterioles and then into even smaller capillaries, the smallest of all blood vessels. Capillaries join together to form small veins, which flow into larger main veins, and these deliver deoxygenated blood back to the heart. Veins, unlike arteries, have thin, slack walls, because the blood has lost the pressure, which forced it out of the heart. Valves keep the blood from flowing backwards.



Answer the following questions or statements on the cardiovascular system.

1. Describe the cardiovascular system. Be sure to include descriptions of the heart, arteries, veins and capillaries.
2. Include a picture of the entire cardiovascular (circulatory) system.
3. Include a picture of a vein and an artery.
4. Choose three specific arteries and describe where they are in the body.
5. What is normal blood pressure and how can it be increased or decreased?
6. What is the average heart rate for humans?
7. Why are capillaries so thin?
8. Describe why blood does not flow backwards through the veins.
9. Describe blood including plasma, red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. Be sure to include the function of each.

Info: <http://www.innerbody.com/anim/card.htm>

Pic: <http://texasheart.org/HIC/Anatomy/>

