

Circulatory System Vocabulary: Structures and Functions

1. blood - the liquid part of the circulatory system
2. heart - the main organ of the circulatory system. Pumps oxygen-poor blood to the lungs and oxygen-rich blood to all parts of the body.
3. Lungs - make oxygen-poor blood oxygen-rich again.
4. Veins - blood vessels that carry blood TOWARD the heart. Most veins are oxygen-poor except for the pulmonary veins.
5. Arteries - blood vessels that carry blood AWAY from the heart. Most arteries are oxygen-rich except for the pulmonary arteries.
6. Capillaries - tiniest blood vessels that connect arteries with veins and exchange materials between blood and other body tissues
7. Aorta - largest artery- comes straight from heart
8. Vena Cava - largest vein- goes straight into heart
9. Pulm. Artery - carry blood from heart to lungs. OXYGEN-POOR
10. Pulm. Vein - carry blood from lungs to heart. OXYGEN-RICH
11. Valve - keep blood flowing in one direction
12. Chamber - little rooms in the heart that fill with blood

