

It's Time to Deliver: The Circulatory System

Okay, we have studied the framework for our wonderful machine, and we understand better how the machine moves. Now we need to learn about its delivery system. We will study the **circulatory system** next. This system has two big jobs, three smaller jobs, and has three essential parts. Let's see what big jobs are done by the body's circulatory system.

Carrying Food, Water, and Oxygen

Sometimes we are a very busy family. We have many after-school activities and appointments that keep us late after work. When we get home late, after a full day, no one wants to take the time to cook dinner. Often, we will pick up the phone and order a pizza or some Chinese food to be delivered. When the food arrives, we gobble it down and get ready to tackle the next job. The food nourishes us and lets us go about our business.

Every cell in your body has certain needs that must be met for the cells to be able to stay alive. Every cell needs food, water, and oxygen. Some cells need other materials as well. The circulatory system has the awesome task of delivering the necessary "goods" to the cells. It is a bit like the delivery person who brings us the pizza or egg fu yung that we need. The circulatory system must be set up in a way that will let it make its deliveries to every single cell. It cannot miss any cells! As we learn more about the circulatory system, you will see what a truly amazing machine your body really is.

Removing Wastes From the Cells

In our everyday activities at home, at school, and at work, we create waste. When I eat a banana for breakfast, I throw away the peel because I do not want to eat it. When I open up my mail, I throw away the envelope it came in. Just think what would happen if we kept all our waste in the house. After just a few days, it would start to pile up. Then, after a week, the garbage would start to smell, and some of the other wastes could become fire hazards. Finally, the wastes would become dangerous to our health. Fortunately, most of us have garbage men who come to haul away the trash on a regular basis. Some of us have to burn or bury trash ourselves, and some of us have to haul it to the dump ourselves.

Your body cells make wastes, too. The wastes cannot stay in the cells. They would build up and prevent the cells from doing their jobs properly. Eventually, too much waste could cause the cell to die. Fortunately, we have a system to haul away the wastes from the cells: the circulatory system. When it delivers the food, water, and oxygen to each cell, it also picks up wastes from the cells. The circulatory system carries the wastes to other parts of the body where the wastes are removed from the body.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Questions

1. How is the circulatory system similar to a paper boy?

2. Why can't the circulatory system miss any cells when it is delivering food, oxygen, and water?

3. How is the circulatory system like a garbage truck?

4. What does the circulatory system do with the wastes from the cells?

5. What would happen if the circulatory system did not pick up wastes from some of the cells in the body?

6. What is the circulatory system?
