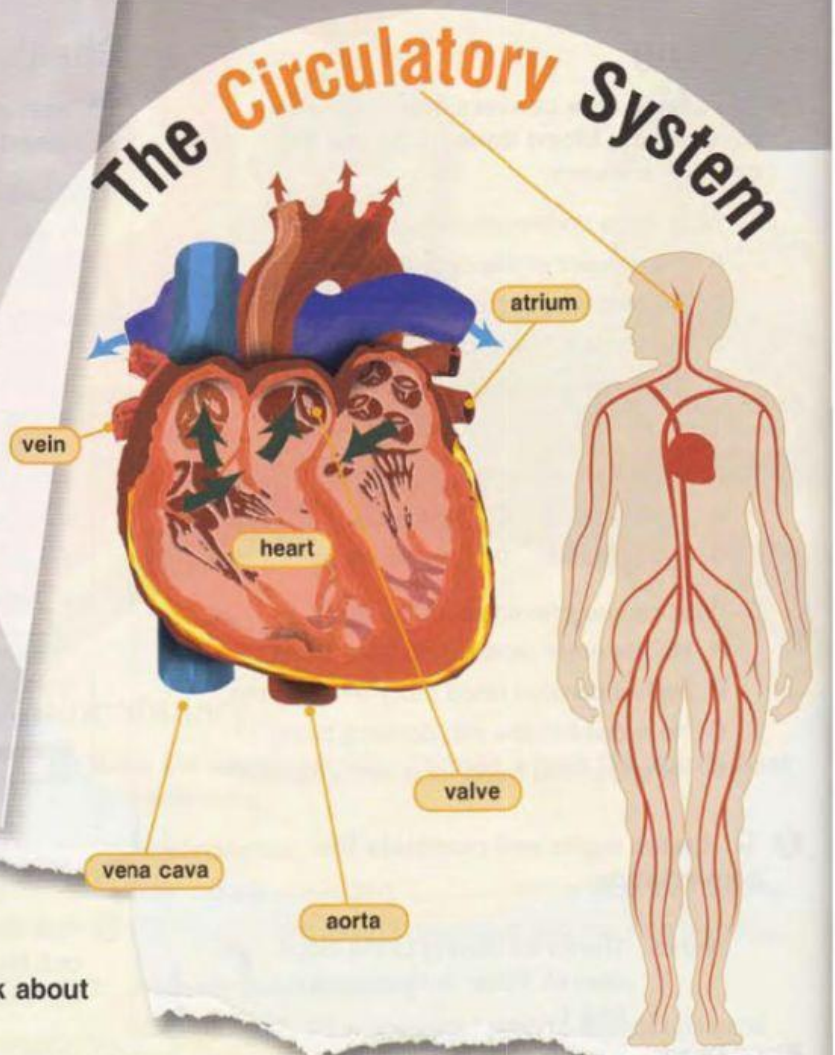
6 The circulatory system

The circulatory system pumps nutrients and oxygen around the body. Blood lacking oxygen enters the right **atrium** of the **heart** through the **vena cava.** The heart pumps this blood through a **valve** and into the right **ventricle**. It travels through **pulmonary arteries** to the lungs and receives oxygen. It travels back to the heart through pulmonary **veins**.

The heart pumps the blood out through the **aorta**. It flows through **capillaries** in the body and delivers oxygen. The blood travels back through veins and the cycle repeats. But sometimes disruptions in the cycle occur. The heart may not pump blood effectively. This is called an **arrhythmia**.



Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1 What does a person's circulatory system do?
2 What problems do people experience related to their circulatory system?

Reading

2 Read the poster in a medical office about the circulatory system. Then, fill in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank.

WORD BANK

aorta lungs circulatory oxygen atrium

The human 1 _____ system delivers nutrients to parts of the body. Blood enters the heart's right 2 _____. It travels to the right ventricle. And then into the 3 _____ through pulmonary arteries. It receives oxygen and travels back to the heart. The heart pumps the blood out through the 4 _____. The blood delivers 5 _____ to the body.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-7) with the definitions (A-G).

1 __ vena cava
2 __ atrium
3 __ valve
4 __ pulmonary
5 __ artery
6 __ capillary
7 __ ventricle

A a small tube that lets blood and tissue exchange nutrients
B one of the two upper chambers of the heart
C one of the two major veins that carries blood to the heart
D relating to the lungs
E a tube that carries blood from the heart to the body
F a structure in the heart that opens and closes
G a space in the heart that holds blood

LIVEWORKSHEETS