



Name _____

Date _____

THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

The circulatory system is an extremely important part of your body. This system transports blood throughout your body. At any given time, your body has five liters of blood flowing through it. The heart, the lungs, and the blood vessels all play an active role in blood flow.

Over the course of a person's life, the heart beats about 3 billion times. That is a lot of very important beats. The beating of the heart means that blood is being sent to the body. The heart is a muscle. It is a very strong muscle. It is divided into four main parts. The blood leaves the heart and enters the aorta. Fresh blood from the aorta goes to the brain.

The brain needs the oxygen in the blood. The brain could not live without this. Blood also travels through the lungs. Carbon dioxide is taken out and oxygen is put in its place. The arteries and veins take the blood to all parts of the body. The blood returns back to the heart through the veins.

You can hear your heart pumping blood in your body by using the stethoscope. One end of this tool is placed on your heart, and the earpieces go in your ears. The stethoscope works like a mini microphone so that you can hear the heart beating.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What could be a different title for this passage?
 - "Blood in the Body"
 - "The Heart and Lungs"
 - "How the Circulatory System Works"
 - "Arteries and Veins in the Body"
- Which of the following is not a fact about the circulatory system?
 - The heart beats about 3 billion times in the average lifetime.
 - The blood contains oxygen for the brain.
 - The blood returns to the heart through the veins.
 - The brain helps the body move and have feelings.
- What was meant by the use of the words "active role" in the first paragraph?
 - Without the heart, the body would die.
 - The brain, heart, and lungs are connected.
 - The brain, heart, and lungs play an important role.
 - The heart, lungs, and blood vessels work together to get blood flowing through the body.
- How did the stethoscope help doctors learn more about the heart?
 - They could hear the heart at work.
 - They could use the stethoscope to measure the amount of blood flow.
 - They could use the stethoscope to hear if a person has a heart or not.