

Circulatory System Vocabulary

1. **Artery** - blood vessel that carries blood away from the heart.
2. **Vein** - blood vessel that carries blood back to the heart.
3. **Capillary** - smallest blood vessel found between arteries and veins.
4. **Atrium** - one of two upper chambers of the heart.
5. **Ventricle** - one of two lower chambers of the heart.
6. **Aorta** - main artery of the body.
7. **Plasma** - yellowish fluid that makes up more than 50% the volume of blood; it contains nutrients, hormones, and minerals and is about 90% water.
8. **Red blood cell** - carries the oxygen throughout the circulatory system.
9. **White blood cell** - these cells are the body's main defense against germs and bacteria.
10. **Platelets** - blood cells which help with blood clotting.
11. **Coronary circulation** - the heart needs a constant and fresh supply of blood which is delivered by the coronary circulation system.
12. **Hemoglobin** - a substance that attracts and holds onto oxygen molecules; hemoglobin is in the red blood cells.
13. **Bone marrow** - inside certain long bones of the body, the bone marrow is the site of blood cell production and storage.
14. **Fibrin** - long thread-like mesh that helps clot blood.
15. **Clot** - seals a wound by forming a thickened concentration of blood.
16. **Pacemaker** - an area of the heart that regulates or signals the beating of the heart.
17. **Cardiac muscle** - the heart.
18. **One-way valve** - a valve that allows the flow of blood in only one direction.
19. **Pulmonary arteries** - arteries which carry carbon dioxide rich blood from the heart to the lungs.
20. **Pulmonary veins** - veins which carry the oxygen-rich blood from the lungs back to the heart.