

HOW BLOOD TRAVELS THROUGH THE BODY

DIRECTIONS: FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW WITH THE FOLLOWING WORDS. Use each word only once.

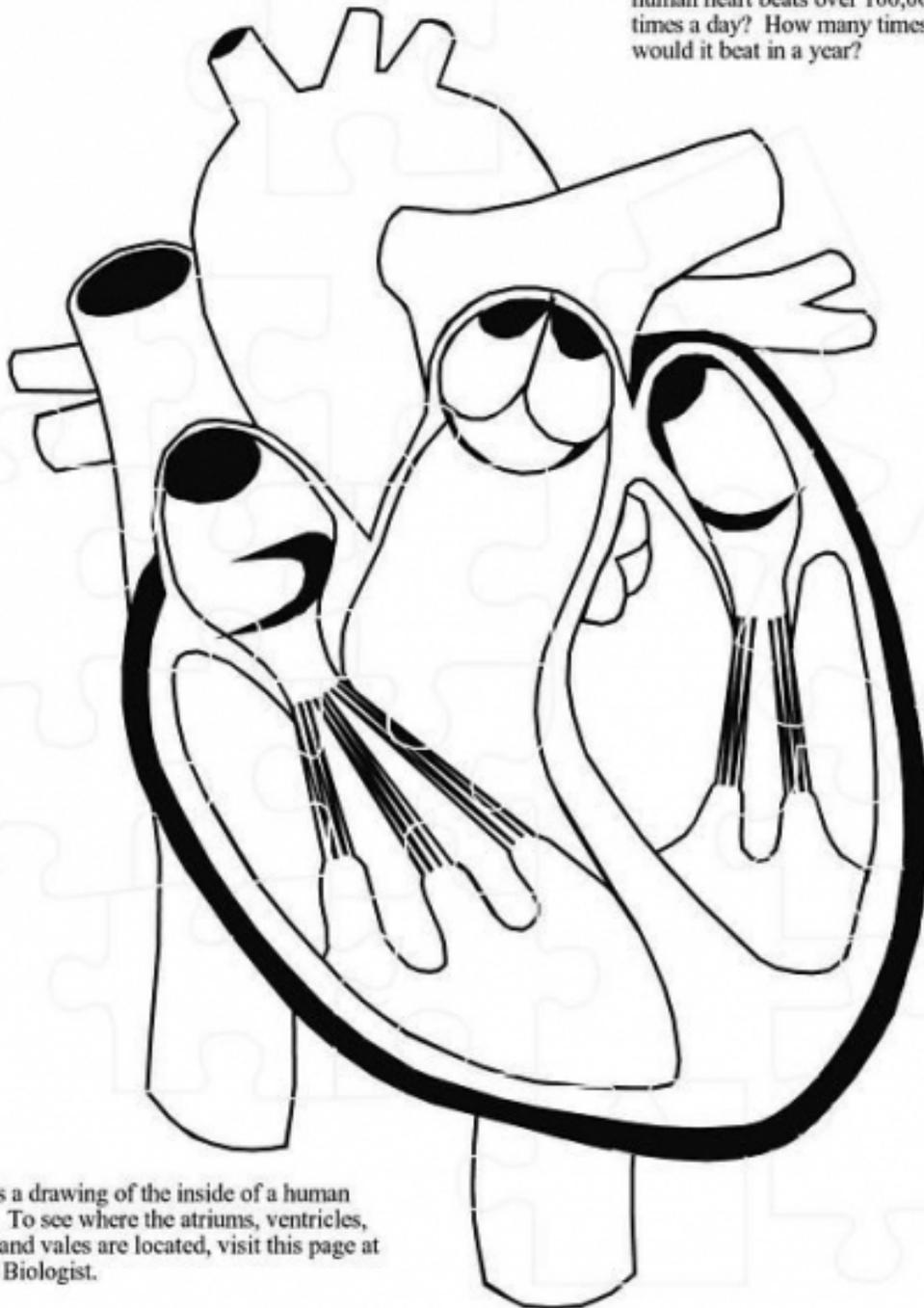
AORTA CAPILLARIES INFERIOR VENA CAVA VEINS VEIN
ARTERIES CAPILLARY OXYGEN VENTRICLE
ATRIUM PULMONARY CIRCULATORY SYSTEM RIGHT
FOOD BLOOD VESSELS SUPERIOR VENA CAVA LUNGS

A system of _____ carries the blood through the body. These vessels include _____, _____, and _____. These vessels and the heart make up the _____.

Let's follow a droplet of blood through the blood vessels. When the droplet leaves the left _____ of the heart, it goes into the largest artery in the body. This artery is called the _____. Soon after leaving the heart, this droplet travels down toward the legs. From here, the blood travels in smaller and smaller vessels until it reaches the very end of the big toe. The blood vessel here is so small it cannot be seen by the naked eye. This tiny vessel is called a _____. At this point, the droplet nourishes the cells next to this tiny vessel and takes away the waste products.

Now that the blood has given up its _____ and _____, it must return to the heart. It moves from a capillary to another vessel called a _____. The blood vessels become larger and larger. Finally, they all join one large blood vessel that receives all the blood from the lower part of the body. This blood vessel is called the _____. Another large vessel collects blood from the head and arms. This vessel is called the _____. Both then separately enter the right _____ of the heart. With the next contraction, blood is pushed into the _____ ventricle. The blood leaves the heart through the _____ artery and enters the _____, where carbon dioxide is exchanged for oxygen. The blood returns to the heart through the pulmonary vein, and then the left atrium before continuing on the journey we began at the top of the paper.

Did you know that an adult human heart beats over 100,000 times a day? How many times would it beat in a year?



This is a drawing of the inside of a human heart. To see where the atriums, ventricles, veins and vales are located, visit this page at Ask a Biologist.

<http://askbiologist.asu.edu/expstuff/images/heart.gif>