

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

1. The circulatory system is a network of blood vessels that carries blood throughout the body. It consists of the heart, which pumps the blood, and the blood vessels, which transport the blood to and from the tissues. The circulatory system is essential for the delivery of oxygen and nutrients to the cells and the removal of waste products. The heart is located in the chest and is divided into four chambers: the right atrium, right ventricle, left atrium, and left ventricle. The right side of the heart pumps blood to the lungs, where it is oxygenated. The left side of the heart pumps oxygenated blood to the rest of the body. The blood vessels are divided into arteries, which carry blood away from the heart, and veins, which carry blood back to the heart. Arteries have thick, muscular walls, while veins have thinner walls and valves that prevent backflow. The capillaries are the smallest blood vessels and are where the exchange of oxygen and nutrients occurs. The circulatory system is a closed system, meaning that the blood never leaves the vessels. The flow of blood is continuous and is regulated by the heart and the nervous system.

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