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Before You Read

## The Stars

- Have you ever star-gazed before? What do you wonder about what stars? Write your answers as a reflection journal in your notebook.
- Complete each sentence with a word from the list. Some words will use a dictionary to help you.

astronomer	moon	astrologist	ice
asteroids	meteors	eons	light years
dust	microscope	telescope	navigate

- The brightest star in our sky is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Stars begin as balls of gas and \_\_\_\_\_ that clump bigger and bigger over time.
- Shooting stars are not actually stars. They are \_\_\_\_\_.
- Scientists measure the distance between stars using \_\_\_\_\_ distance that light travels in one year.
- A scientist who studies the stars is called an \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Hubble space \_\_\_\_\_ is used to view the stars.
- Stars have been used by sailors to \_\_\_\_\_ the oceans.

3. Choose **one** of the words from the list below and find out what it means with a word from the word bank that relates to its meaning.

- \_\_\_\_\_ nebula
- \_\_\_\_\_ supernova
- \_\_\_\_\_ galaxy
- \_\_\_\_\_ universe



Answer each question

- Why does the Sun feel so much smaller?
- What happens to a star when it runs out of fuel?
- What is a **supernova**?

### Research & Extensions

- When some super giant stars die, they leave behind a **black hole**. You may have heard of black holes in science fiction novels, video games, movies, or on television shows.
  - Conduct enough research on black holes using print and/or Internet resources to learn **five** interesting points. Record your five points on the Star Organizer on the next page.
  - Organize your five points into a **paragraph** that explains what a black hole is. Remember to start your paragraph with a topic sentence, then add the details and finish with a concluding statement. Use the Organizer on page 32 to help you.
  - Create a comic strip that includes a black hole in the storyline. You will need to think about what kind of action could take place around a black hole, and then create characters and write a plot for your story. Present it as a 3 to 5-section comic strip.

### WEB CONNECTION

To learn more about the Hubble Space Telescope, search the Internet using the words "Hubble telescope". See if you can find pictures of what the sky looks like through the Hubble Space Telescope. Also, look for information on how to make your own telescope!



Reading Passage

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Stars

Scientists estimate that there are **trillions** of stars in the universe. You could probably see about 3,000 of them on a clear night if you live in the country. Did you know that stars have a **life cycle**, just like living things? They are born, they grow up, and then they die. A star begins as a cloud of gas and dust, called a **nebula**. As the cloud moves around, it picks up more and more gas and dust. The star gets really big and hot; eventually it runs out of gas and burns out. The burnt out star will blow up, shrink or go cold. This whole cycle can take billions of years to happen.



Why can people who live in the country see more stars than people who live near a city?

There are many types of stars. The **Sun** is a star called a **yellow dwarf**. It may seem funny to think of the Sun as a "dwarf" because it seems so much bigger than other stars. Did you know that the Sun is actually much smaller than most stars? It just looks bigger because it is closer to the Earth. Except for our Sun, stars are not part of our solar system because they are so far away. They are part of the **universe**.

**Blue stars** are much bigger than yellow stars, so they are called **blue giants**. They are very bright and very hot. When they die, they grow larger and larger and then explode into a **supernova**. Supernovas are so bright that they can be seen from very far away. There are even bigger stars than blue giants. They are called **super giant stars**. The largest one you can see with your bare eyes is **Betelgeuse**. It is 700 times bigger than the Sun.

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Hands-On

## Test It!

### TOYS IN SPACE

In this activity, you will have the chance to make predictions about how toys will work in space. In scientific experiments, we call these predictions **hypotheses**. You have a chance to **observe** the toys at work and draw a **conclusion** about the scientific process.

Many of the toys that we play with on Earth work well because of gravity. Have you ever wondered how toys might work in zero gravity? They might be more fun, and some might be less! Complete the first two columns. Then, go to: <http://observe.arc.nasa.gov/nasa/exhibits/toys> watch the toys at work. Complete the final two columns after you have seen the toys in space.

TOY	A) Background: How does gravity help this toy work on Earth?	B) Hypothesis: How will this toy be affected by zero gravity?	C) Observation: What do you learn about how it performs in space?
1. Ball in Cup 			
2. Jacob's Ladder 			
3. Yo - Yo 			
4. Wind-up Toy 			

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

After You Read

## Comprehension Quiz

- Circle the word **TRUE** if the statement is TRUE **OR** Circle the word **FALSE**.

1. Astronauts at the International Space Station get to watch more than a dozen sunrises and sunsets each day.

FALSE

2. The ISS is so large and heavy, special launchers were designed to get it into space.

FALSE

3. The ISS rotate in and out about once per year.

FALSE

4. The ISS provides us an opportunity to conduct experiments that we cannot do here on Earth.

FALSE

5. Astronauts need to keep up their strength, they work very short days and get very little sleep.

FALSE

6. Write a question with a complete sentence.

7. Write a question about an "extraordinary" person?

8. Write a question about the context of the phrase, "The Eagle has landed."

9. Write a question about the example from this book that proves "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

10. Write a question about why many astronauts and scientists seem so interested in finding evidence of other planets and moons?

11. Write a question about the cooperation of many countries needed on a project like the ISS?

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SUBTOTAL

Space Travel & Technology



Solar System



Galaxies & The Universe



Space Travel & Technology



Bundle  
Grades 5-8  
Space  
Big Book

## The Andromeda Galaxy



### Different Shapes of Galaxies



BARRED SPIRAL



ELLIPTICAL



IRREGULAR

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## Before You Read

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# The Water Cycle

1. Draw a straight line from the word on the left to its definition on the right. You may use a dictionary to help.

- 1 water cycle
- 2 evaporation
- 3 collection
- 4 precipitation
- 5 condensation

- Gathering of objects
- The movement of water from the air and then back to the Earth
- Water or the amount of water on the Earth
- Water turns into vapor or steam
- Water turns from a vapor into a liquid

2. Complete each sentence with a word from the list below. Use a dictionary for help.

- collection    water    evaporation    condensation**
- a) \_\_\_\_\_ is when water falls down to the Earth.
- b) When you boil water in a tea kettle, steam is produced. This is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ can be a solid, liquid, or a gas.
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ is when you are gathering something together in one place.
- e) When water turns from a vapor into a liquid, it is called \_\_\_\_\_.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



## 3. Circle True or False

- T F** If it is falling, it is rain. \_\_\_\_\_
- T F** \_\_\_\_\_
- T F** \_\_\_\_\_
- T F** c) The amount of water on Earth changes every day. \_\_\_\_\_
- T F** d) Evaporation is the last step in the water cycle. It is when water falls back to Earth as rain or snow. \_\_\_\_\_
- T F** e) The water cycle shows how water goes around and around on Earth. \_\_\_\_\_

## Extension & Application

### 4. WRITE A PLAY!

You are the newest play writer in Hollywood. You have a very important job to do. Five hundred people are coming to watch your play called "The Water Cycle" but you haven't written it yet!

You will write a play that will teach the audience how **water cycles around on Earth**. Create a CONVERSATION between the following characters/actors:

- Water
- Evaporation
- Condensation
- Precipitation
- Collection

Use your conversation to explain what happens to the "water" character at each of these stages in the water cycle. Pretend each stage is a character!

**Be creative and use your own sense of humor. A funny play is an enjoyable play!**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Passage



# The Water Cycle

Pretend there is a full glass of water sitting on your desk right now. Look at the water. Guess how old the water is. Have you ever thought about that? You might have just turned on the tap a minute ago. Does that make the water one minute old? No, it does not. The water might have fallen from the sky a week ago. That still does not make the water one week old. The water itself has been around pretty much as long as the Earth has. It is very old! Think way back to when life on Earth started. The water in your glass was part of the very first ocean. The Earth has an exact amount of water on it. When water goes around and around on our Earth, we call it the **water cycle**.



Where do you think tap water comes from? Where do you think it goes once it goes down the drain?



The water cycle is made up of four steps: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection. **Evaporation** is the first step. The Sun heats up the water in lakes and oceans. The water turns into vapor or steam. **Condensation** is the next step. Water vapor in the air gets cold and turns back into a liquid. Clouds are formed! **Precipitation** happens when so much water has condensed that air cannot hold it anymore. Clouds let water fall back to Earth. This is rain and snow! **Collection** happens when precipitation falls back to Earth. Water goes into lakes and oceans. It may also fall onto land and soak into the Earth through the soil. Then the cycle starts all over again!

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## Hands-On Activity #3

# Build Your Own Ecosystem

We have talked and read about so many ecosystems. Now it is time to build your own!

### COLLECT THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS:

- Gravel or small rocks
- Soil/dirt
- A jar or bottle (with a large enough top to put your ecosystem in)
- A lid for your jar or bottle to seal it (you can seal it with tape if you think air can get in)
- A few plants from the school yard or a garden
- Small animals from the garden (worms, snails, slugs, etc.)
- Wood, garden rocks or branches to make it look like a real ecosystem

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

- Put a large handful of gravel or small rocks in the bottom of the jar or bottle.
- Add a large handful of soil.
- Plant the plants into the soil. Try to choose plants that fit in the jar, only use small plants. If you put too many plants in, they will crowd each other out.
- If you think your ecosystem needs water, add a bit of water.
- This is the fun bit...** choose some animals. Use anything you find in your yard or garden. Remember, choose small animals. You want to see how they do.
- Close your ecosystem. Put the lid on or use tape to seal the jar or bottle.

Now it's time to record your observations!

### ON A PIECE OF PAPER, record the following things:

- Size of your container (you may want to draw a picture of your ecosystem)
- Number and type of plants and animals you used
- How much soil you used
- What is happening in your system? Count your animals and record if any are growing. Have all of your plants and animals survived?



## After You Read

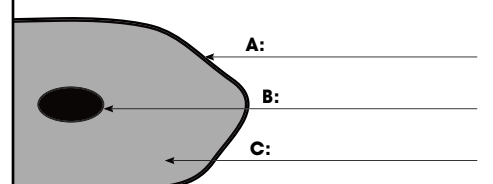
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# Comprehension Quiz

### Part A

- Circle True if the statement is true. Circle False if it is false.
- Cells are made up of millions of cells. There are also some organisms made up of one cell. **False**
  - A bacterium and an oak tree are all examples of single-celled organisms. **False**
  - A cell wall is like a front door. It controls everything that passes in and out of the cell. **False**
  - Cells are made up of many specialized cells which carry out special functions to support the life of the organism. **False**
  - Binary fission and mitosis are two types of cell reproduction. **False**
  - Prokaryotic cells are only found in single-celled organisms. Animal cells can only be found in multicellular organisms. **False**

Label the three main parts of a cell. Use the words in the box.



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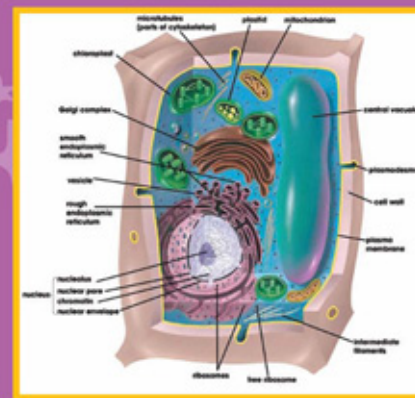
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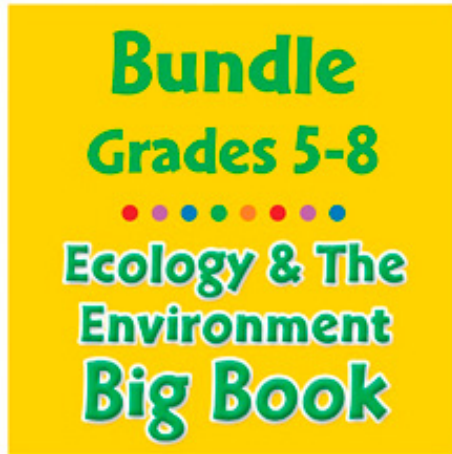
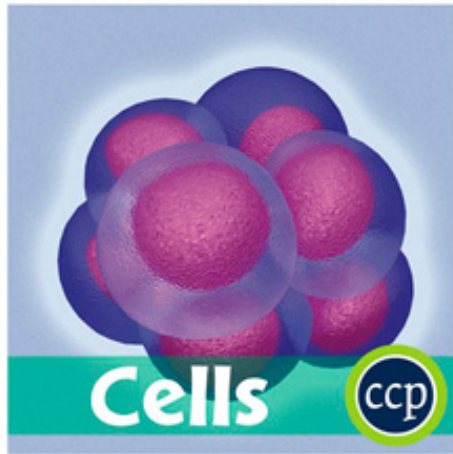
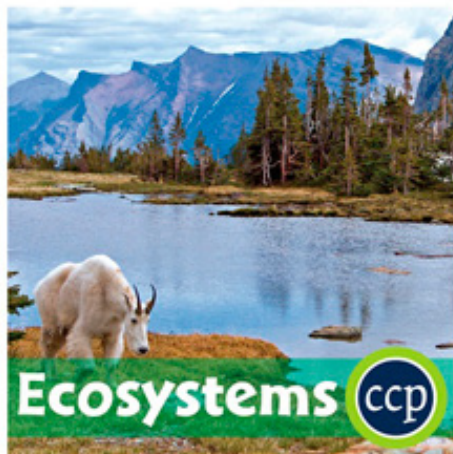
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# Plant & Animal Cells

## Plant Cell



## Animal Cell



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Before You Read

## What Is Force?

- Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False.
  - a) Force is the same as energy.
    - True      False
  - b) Forces can either push or pull.
    - True      False
  - c) Gravity pushes us toward the Earth.
    - True      False
  - d) When something is sliding down a hill, friction makes it slide.
    - True      False
  - e) Friction and gravity are both forces.
    - True      False

### 2. Write each word beside its meaning.

force	friction	gravity	pull
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	a) the force of the Earth pulling things	_____	_____
_____	b) a force that moves things closer	_____	_____
_____	c) a push or a pull	_____	_____
_____	d) the force that moves things far	_____	_____
_____	e) the force between things sliding	_____	_____



### Answer the questions

3. What is **speed**?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is **velocity**? Give an example of a velocity.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why is it useful to know the velocity of something?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Extension & Application

- Four students left school in four different directions at four different speeds:
  - Justin walked north at 1 mile per hour.
  - Britney skateboarded south at 3 miles per hour.
  - Nadia walked east at 2 miles per hour.
  - Ashley rollerbladed west at 4 miles per hour.

On the graph on the next page, show each student's velocity by drawing an arrow. The width of one square equals 1 mile per hour. Write each student's name next to the arrow you draw for their velocity. The school is in the center. (Use a ruler to draw your arrows.)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Reading Passage

## Acceleration

You may remember that speeding up is called acceleration, and slowing down is called deceleration. **Constant acceleration** means speeding up in a steady way. Each second, the thing that is accelerating gains the same amount of speed.



Things that are falling have constant acceleration. Every second a falling rock increases its speed by 32 feet per second. We say that the rock accelerates at 32 feet per second *per second*. If you throw a rock into the air, it decelerates by 32 feet per second per second until it reaches zero speed at its greatest height. Then it falls back to the ground accelerating at 32 feet per second per second.

A car might accelerate from zero to 55 miles per hour in 10 seconds. A speed of 55 miles per hour is the same as 80 feet per second. This means the car has accelerated at 8 feet per second per second ( $80 \div 10 = 8$ ).

In a foot race, runners run from the starting line to the finish line 100 meters away.

1. When is the acceleration of the runners greatest?

2. When are the runners sure to be decelerating?



What makes things accelerate or decelerate? There is a law of motion that says, "Things don't change their motion unless they are acted on by a **force**." A force is a push or a pull. The accelerating car is acted on by the force of the wheels pushing on the highway. A falling rock is acted on by the force of **gravity**. Force is also needed to make something change the direction in which it is moving. The greater the force the more it will change the motion of something.

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## Hands-On Activity #3

### Machine Hunt Game

This game is played with two or more people. You will hunt for each of the different kinds of simple machines in your home. The winner is the person to find **all six** simple machines first. Set a timer for 15 minutes. If no one has found all six when the time is up, the person who has found the most simple machines wins.

Remember that the **SIX SIMPLE MACHINES** are:

inclined plane

wedge

lever

wheel and axle

pulley

screw

Set some boundaries, like inside your house. The kitchen is a good place to look. A toy box or tool box are also good places to look. Look carefully. You probably find some simple machines in places you never expected to find them.

Good luck, and have fun hunting!

After You Read

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Quiz

### Part A

Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False.

- Force causes something to move, work is done.
  - True
  - False
- Power is a simple machine.
  - True
  - False
- Pulleys are used on their fulcrum.
  - True
  - False
- A wheel and axle is a kind of lever.
  - True
  - False
- We do as much work when we use a simple machine.
  - True
  - False

Mark (✓) next to the answer that is most correct.

What things do we need to know to find how much work is done?

- Force and distance
- Force and energy
- Force and time

Which of these simple machines usually doesn't move when it is being used?

- Lever
- Inclined plane
- Wheel and axle

Which of these is a simple machine?

- Friction
- Wedge
- Force

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SUBTOTAL

Force, Motion & Simple Machines

## Galileo Galilei and The Leaning Tower of Pisa



It has been said Galileo discovered how objects fall by dropping balls of different masses from the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Actually he rolled balls down a ramp.

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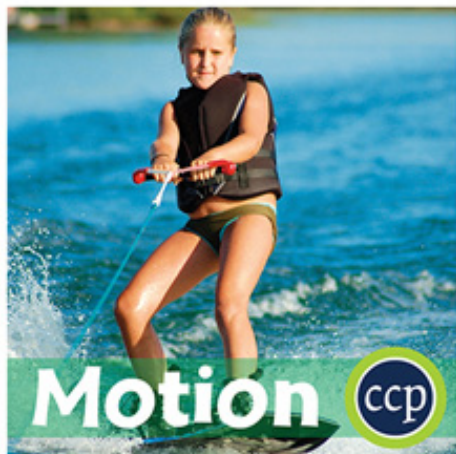
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Force, Motion & Simple Machines CC4511



Force

ccp



Motion

ccp



Simple Machines

ccp

Bundle  
Grades 5-8  
Force, Motion &  
Simple Machines  
Big Book

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Before You Read

## Cells – The Building Blocks

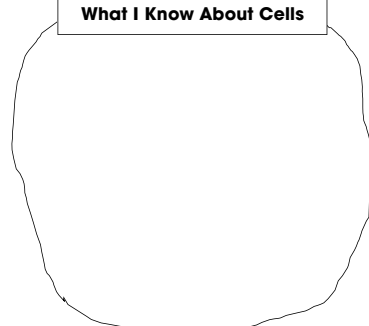
1. Complete each sentence with a word from the list to help you.

unicellular organisms      multicellular organisms  
bacteria                              cells

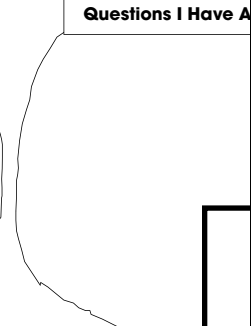
- Every living thing is made up of \_\_\_\_\_. That is why building blocks of life.
- Some living things are very simple. The ones that are only one \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ are an example of unicellular organisms.
- Humans and frogs are an example of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Most cells are very small. We have to use a \_\_\_\_\_ to see them.

2. Use the cell shapes below to list anything you already know about cells and some questions you have about cells.

What I Know About Cells



Questions I Have About Cells



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Reading Passage

## The Nervous System – Brain

One of the most important organ systems in our body is the **nervous system**. The nervous system is a **network of tissue** that has the job of sending and carrying **messages** to all areas of our body. Our nervous system controls all our movements and reactions to the world around us. The nervous system is made of three important parts – the **brain**, the **spinal cord** and the **nerves**.



To understand how the parts of the nervous system work together, think of a **computer system**. The brain is the computer. The spinal cord is the cable carrying the messages or **data** to and from the computer. All the nerves connect to the spinal cord. These nerves carry the messages to every part of the body and also send important **information** back to the brain.

Why is the brain like a computer?



## The Brain

The brain **manages** our nervous system. It is the control center of our body. The brain is protected inside the bones of the skull. It weighs about three pounds and is made of over 100 **billion** nerve cells. The brain has three main parts.

Brain Part	Description	What It Does
<b>cerebrum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the large top part of the brain</li> <li>• divided into two halves</li> <li>• looks pinkish gray in color, is jelly-like and <b>wrinkled</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• controls <b>thinking, memory</b>, all our <b>emotions</b> and <b>language</b></li> <li>• also very important for movement</li> </ul>
<b>cerebellum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• also called "little brain"</li> <li>• sits below the cerebrum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• important for movement, <b>balance</b> and <b>posture</b></li> </ul>
<b>brain stem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• looks like a <b>stalk</b> that connects the brain to the spinal cord</li> <li>• the simplest part of our brain.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• controls <b>involuntary</b> movements like our breathing and heart beat</li> </ul>

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Human Body CC4519

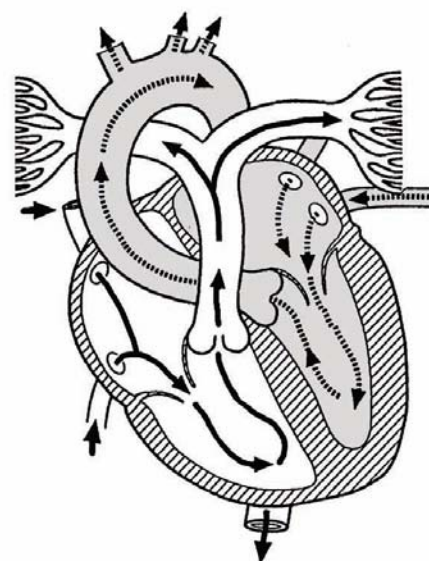
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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Look at the diagram of the two chambers of the heart. The arrows show the direction of the blood going into the heart.

- Color the blood moving through the left chamber **red**.
- Color the blood moving through the right chamber **blue**.



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After You Read

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Quiz

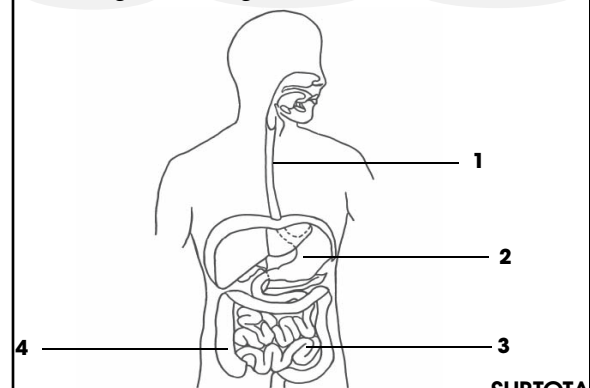
Part A

Write **T** if the statement is TRUE or **F** if it is FALSE.

- Blood circulates through blood vessels and goes to all parts of the body.
- The largest artery is the aorta, located in the lungs.
- The heart is a pump made of voluntary muscle tissue.
- Our stomach is not very strong. This is why we can get sick to our stomach.
- Acid in the stomach breaks down our food.
- Materials left over in the large intestine are indigestible.
- Sugar is a waste material found in sweat.
- Testosterone is an enzyme made in the male body.

Label the digestive system. Use the words in the list.

esophagus      large intestine      small intestine



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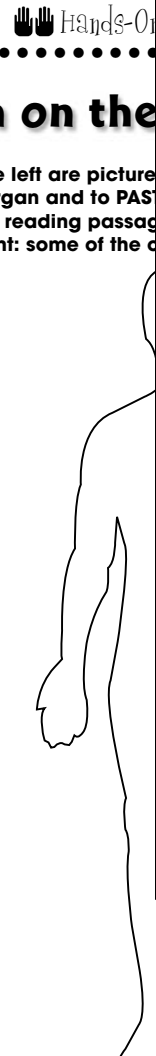
SUBTOTAL

Human

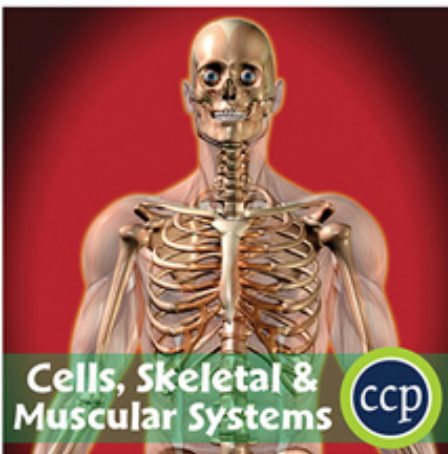
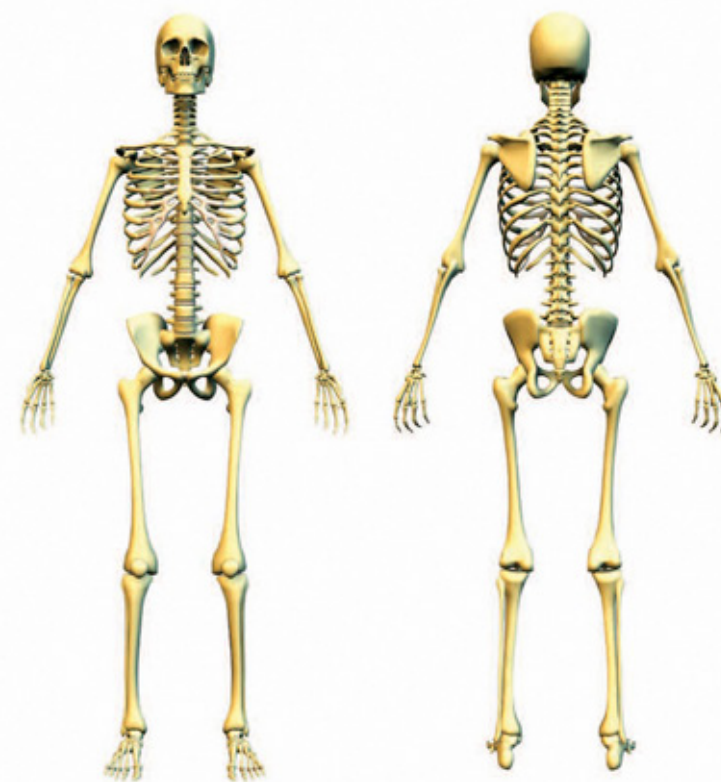
## Pin the Organ on the Body

Here is an outline of the human body. To the left are pictures of organs in the body. Your task is to CUT OUT each organ and to PASTE it on the outline of the body. You may use information from the reading passage resource materials to find the answers. (Hint: some of the organs are not shown.)

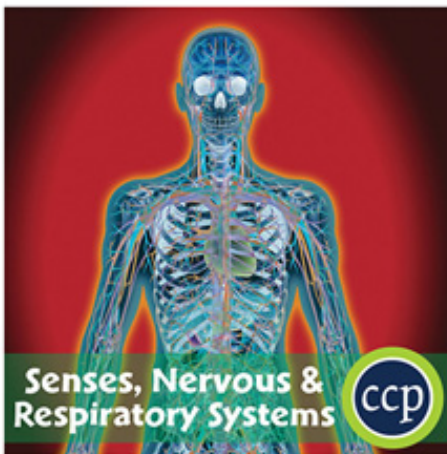
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a) liver<br>     | b) intestines<br> |
| c) esophagus<br> | d) bladder<br>    |
| e) heart<br>     | f) lungs<br>      |
| g) stomach<br>   | h) kidneys<br>    |



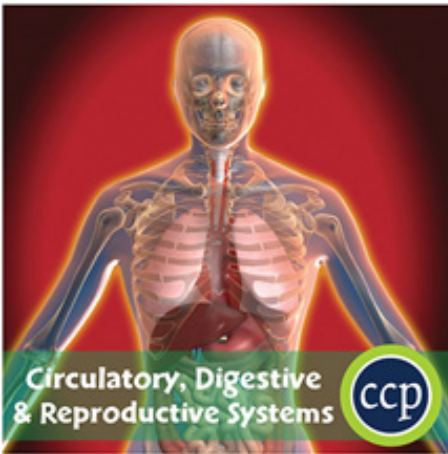
## Skeletal System



Cells, Skeletal & Muscular Systems



Senses, Nervous & Respiratory Systems



Circulatory, Digestive & Reproductive Systems



Bundle  
Grades 5-8

Human Body  
Big Book

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Human Body CC4519