

Sheep Heart Dissection Lab Worksheet Answers

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score out of 10 _____
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Sheep Heart Dissection

**What are the chambers, valves, and blood vessels of the heart?
What path does blood take through the heart?**

The heart is a fist-sized muscle located to the left of the center of the chest. The heart contains **four chambers**. The upper chambers are called **atria**. The lower chambers are called **ventricles**. Between each chamber, there are **valves** that prevent the backflow of blood.

Blood is carried **away from the heart** by blood vessels called **arteries** and carried back **toward the heart** by blood vessels called **veins**. Arteries and veins are connected by **capillaries**. Arteries have muscular, elastic walls to help move the blood through the body. **Veins** have **one-way valves** to prevent the backflow of blood on its return to the heart.

Oxygen-poor blood from cells of the body **enters** the heart through the **right atrium** and is pumped into the **right ventricle**. The blood then travels into the **pulmonary artery**, which goes into the **lungs**. In the lungs, the blood gives off carbon dioxide and picks up oxygen. The **oxygen-rich blood** returns to the heart by way of the **pulmonary vein**.

The blood enters the **left atrium** and is pumped into the **left ventricle**. The blood is pumped out of the heart through the **aorta** to cells in the rest of the body.

The muscular **wall of the left ventricle** is **thicker** than the wall of the right ventricle because it has to pump the blood to the entire body. Blood leaving the right ventricle only goes to go to the lungs.

Each time the **ventricles contract**, blood is forced through the **arteries**. This force causes a beat, or **pulse**, that is felt in arteries at the wrist, neck, and temple. The pulse is exactly the same as the heartbeat.

In this investigation you will examine the chambers, valves, and blood vessels of the heart. You will also trace the path of blood through the heart. Use the above information, your PowerPoint notes, and the textbook to help you answer the questions in this lab.

Materials

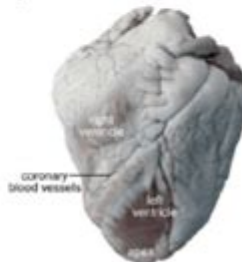
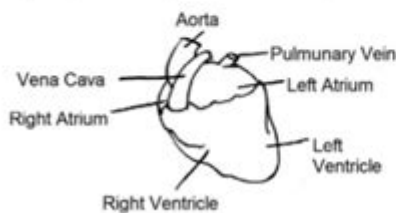
- sheep heart
- probe
- scissors/scalpel
- dissecting tray
- metric ruler
- tweezers

Procedure (Day 1) You will not cut the heart open today!

You do NOT need to write in complete sentences.

Identify the right and left sides of the heart

Obtain a sheep heart and place the heart in a dissecting tray. Imagine the heart in the body of a person facing you. The left side of their heart is on their left, but since you are facing them, it is on your right. Position your heart in the tray so that it matches the diagram below.



Sheep heart dissection lab worksheet answers provide a comprehensive understanding of the anatomy and function of the heart within the context of comparative anatomy. Dissecting a sheep heart allows students to explore the intricacies of this vital organ, drawing parallels with human anatomy. This article will guide you through the essential components of sheep heart dissection, the answers to common lab worksheet questions, and the significance of each structure observed during the dissection.

Overview of Sheep Heart Anatomy

The sheep heart is a muscular organ that plays a crucial role in the circulatory system. It has four chambers, similar to the human heart, which include:

1. Right Atrium - Receives deoxygenated blood from the body.
2. Right Ventricle - Pumps deoxygenated blood to the lungs.
3. Left Atrium - Receives oxygenated blood from the lungs.
4. Left Ventricle - Pumps oxygenated blood to the body.

In addition to these chambers, the heart contains several key structures:

- Valves: Ensure unidirectional blood flow (tricuspid, pulmonary, mitral, and aortic valves).
- Coronary arteries: Supply blood to the heart muscle itself.
- Septum: Divides the left and right sides of the heart.

Understanding these components is essential for completing a sheep heart dissection lab worksheet.

Preparing for the Dissection

Before starting the dissection, it is important to prepare adequately. Here are some preparatory steps:

1. Gather Materials: Ensure you have the necessary equipment, including:
 - Dissection kit (scalpel, scissors, forceps, etc.)
 - Sheep heart specimen
 - Dissection tray
 - Gloves and safety goggles
2. Review Safety Protocols: Always prioritize safety by following lab protocols, including:
 - Wearing gloves to avoid contamination.
 - Using sharp instruments carefully.
 - Disposing of biological waste appropriately.
3. Study the Anatomy: Familiarize yourself with diagrams of the sheep heart to better understand the structures you'll be examining during dissection.

Dissection Procedure

The dissection process can be broken down into several key steps:

Step 1: Examination of the External Structures

- Identify the Apex: The pointed end of the heart, which is directed towards the left side of the body.
- Locate the Base: The broader region where major blood vessels enter and exit the heart.
- Observe the Great Vessels: Identify the aorta and the pulmonary artery.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary purpose of a sheep heart dissection?

The primary purpose is to study the anatomy and physiology of the heart, including its structure and function.

What materials are typically needed for a sheep heart dissection lab?

Materials usually include a sheep heart, dissection tools (scalpel, scissors, forceps), gloves, a dissection tray, and a lab worksheet.

What are the main chambers of the sheep heart that students should identify during dissection?

Students should identify the right atrium, right ventricle, left atrium, and left ventricle.

How do you identify the pulmonary arteries during a sheep heart dissection?

The pulmonary arteries can be identified as the large vessels branching from the right ventricle, leading to the lungs.

What is the significance of the heart valves in the sheep heart?

Heart valves ensure unidirectional blood flow through the heart and prevent backflow, which is critical for efficient circulation.

What observations can be made about the thickness of the heart walls?

The left ventricle has thicker walls compared to the right ventricle, as it needs to pump blood to the entire body, while the right ventricle pumps to the lungs.

What safety precautions should be taken during a sheep heart dissection?

Safety precautions include wearing gloves, goggles, and a lab coat, as well as handling dissection tools carefully to avoid cuts or injuries.

How can studying a sheep heart help understand human heart anatomy?

Studying a sheep heart provides insights into mammalian heart structure, as sheep hearts share similarities with human hearts, helping students understand human anatomy.

What type of questions can be found on a sheep heart dissection lab worksheet?

Questions may include labeling heart structures, describing the function of each chamber, and comparing the sheep heart to a human heart.

Why is it important to follow the dissection guide during the lab?

Following the dissection guide ensures that students accurately identify and understand the different parts of the heart, enhancing their learning experience.

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