

Learning Experience 4: Blood and the Heart

Heart Observation Notes

Students will have the opportunity to observe the structures of the heart that allow it to pump blood through out the body. Here are some items you can address:

- Explain to the students that they are observing the heart as if it is a mirror image of theirs. The right side of the heart is on their left and the left side of the heart is on their right.
- Look at the shape of the heart - the bottom part of the heart comes together at a point and the top part of the heart is where major blood vessels are located.
- Point out the general location of an atrium and ventricle from the outside of the heart. Their positions are very different as are their sizes.
- Open the heart and allow the students to simply look at the structures.
- Show the students the atria and ventricles, again pointing out the size and position.
- Point out the right ventricle and the left ventricle. They, too, are very different in size. The wall of the left ventricle is much thicker than the wall of the right ventricle.
- Refer to Science Notebook Page A and ask the students to trace the path of blood through the heart on their diagrams.
- Use the sheep's heart to show the path of the blood through the heart.
- Point out a valve in the sheep's heart.
- Identify the aorta at the top of the heart. This is the blood vessel that carries the blood to the body.