Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Human Heart: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: Science · about 235 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

❤️ The Human Heart

Make a fist. That is about the size of your heart. This hard-working muscle beats about 100,000 times a day, pumping blood through a network of blood vessels that, if laid end to end, would stretch tens of thousands of miles.

The heart has four chambers. The two upper chambers are called atria, and the two lower chambers are called ventricles. The right side of the heart receives blood that has already delivered its oxygen to the body. It pumps that blood to the lungs, where the blood picks up fresh oxygen and gets rid of carbon dioxide. The oxygen-rich blood then returns to the left side of the heart. The left ventricle, the strongest chamber, squeezes hard to send this blood out to every part of the body.

Valves inside the heart act like one-way doors. They open to let blood through and snap shut to keep it from flowing backward. The "lub-dub" sound a doctor hears through a stethoscope is the sound of these valves closing.

Blood travels away from the heart through arteries and returns through veins. Tiny vessels called capillaries connect them. Capillaries are so narrow that blood cells must pass through them in single file.

You can keep your heart healthy by being active every day, eating fruits and vegetables, and getting enough sleep. Exercise makes the heart muscle stronger, just like it strengthens the muscles in your arms and legs.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?
   A. how lungs breathe B. why exercise is fun C. how the heart works and how to keep it healthy
   D. how doctors use stethoscopes

2. **Detail:** How many chambers does the heart have?
   A. four B. three C. two D. six

3. **Detail:** Where does the right side of the heart pump blood?
   A. to the lungs B. to the brain C. to the legs D. to the stomach

4. **Vocabulary:** In this passage, valves are compared to...
   A. one-way doors B. rivers C. pumps D. windows

5. **Detail:** What makes the "lub-dub" sound?
   A. the stethoscope B. blood cells crashing C. valves closing D. air in the lungs

6. **Inference:** Why do you think the left ventricle is the strongest chamber?

ANSWER KEY

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