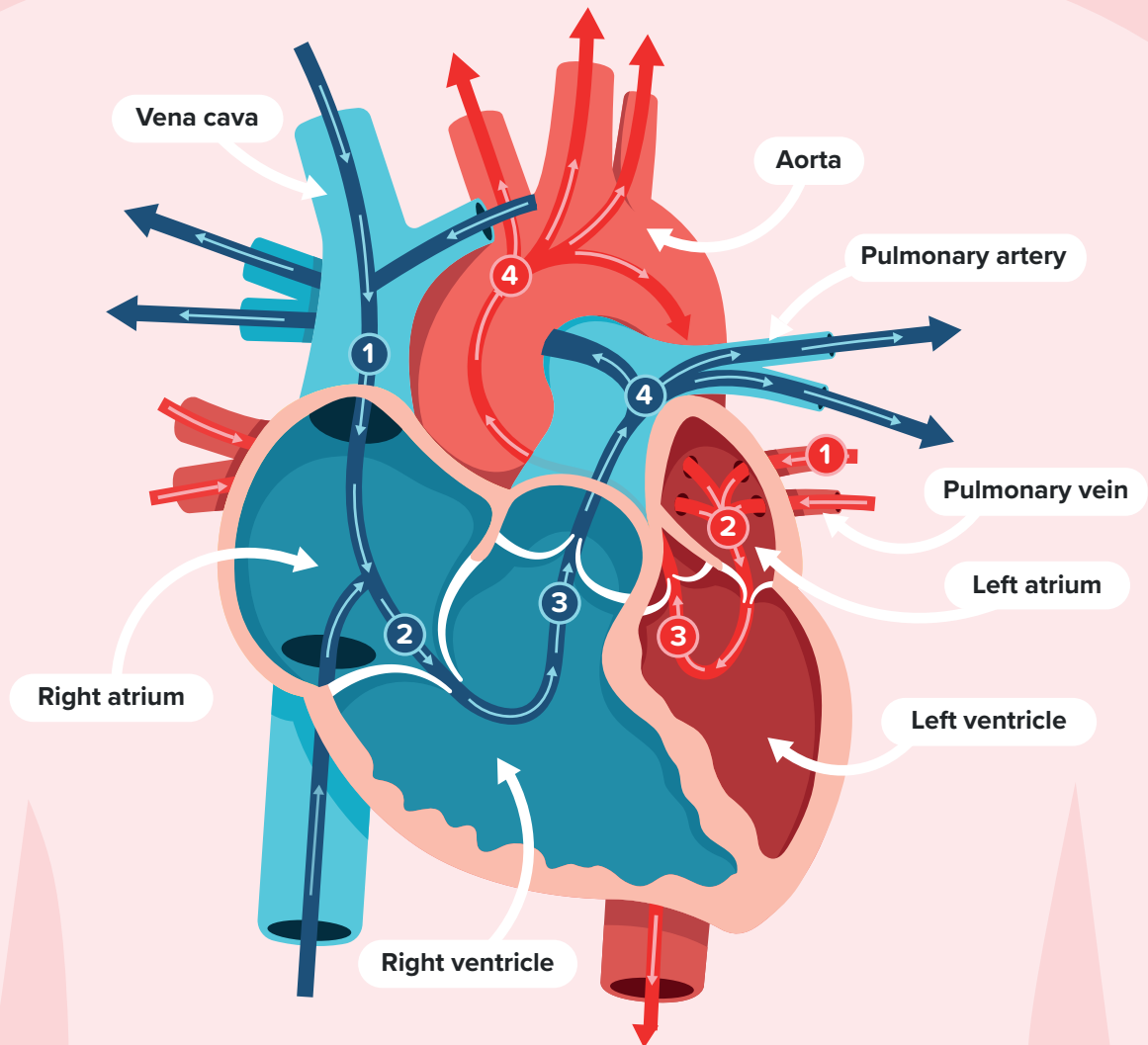


BLOOD FLOW

Through the Heart

The heart forms a double circulatory system. The heart pumps blood to the lungs and also to the rest of the body.



The path of **oxygenated** blood

- 1 Oxygenated blood returns from the lungs and enters the **left atrium** via the **pulmonary veins**.
- 2 The **left atrium** contracts to pump the blood through a **valve** into the **left ventricle**.
- 3 The **left ventricle** contracts to pump the blood through a **valve** into the **aorta**.
- 4 Oxygenated blood leaves the heart and travels to the body via the **aorta**.

The path of **deoxygenated** blood

- 1 Deoxygenated blood returns from the body and enters the **right atrium** via the **vena cava**.
- 2 The **right atrium** contracts to pump the blood through a **valve** into the **right ventricle**.
- 3 The **right ventricle** contracts to pump the blood through a **valve** into the **pulmonary arteries**.
- 4 Deoxygenated blood leaves the heart and travels to the lungs via the **pulmonary arteries**.