

Did you know?

- Deoxygenated blood is not blue. It is, in fact, a deep reddish-purple colour.
- Veins appear blue in our arms and legs due to the different wavelengths of light absorbed by our skin. Like deoxygenated blood, they're not blue!
- Human blood is red due to a substance called haemoglobin. Haemoglobin contains iron which gives blood its red hue.
- Squids, octopuses and snails have blue blood. This is due to them having haemocyanin in their blood which contains copper instead of iron.
- The study of the human heart and its various disorders is known as 'cardiology'.
- Some capillaries are so thin that red blood cells have to squeeze their way through, one at a time!
- Because the heart has electrical impulses, it can continue to beat even when separated from the body, provided that it has an adequate oxygen supply.
- The heartbeat sound is produced by the closing of valves in the heart, preventing blood from flowing backwards.
- *Atrium* is Latin for 'entrance hall' and *ventricle* is Latin for 'little body'.
- The first successful heart transplant was performed in Cape Town, South Africa in 1967 by Dr Christiaan Barnard.
- The blue whale has the largest heart of any living creature: it can weigh over 680 kg and is the size of a small car!
- The Greeks believed the heart to be the seat of the spirit, the Chinese considered it the centre for happiness, and the Egyptians thought of the heart as the source of wisdom and emotions.
- The pressure created in the heart during a heartbeat is enough to squirt blood a distance of thirty feet!
- Research has shown that traumatic events can cause real physical pains in the heart. The condition is called broken heart syndrome and is often misdiagnosed as a heart attack.
- The largest human heart formation consisted of 11,166 participants in Mexico (2010), all wearing red headscarves and red clothing while an aerial photographer captured the scene.