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| unicellular | one celled organism |
| multi-cellular | an organism with more than one cell |
| cell | the smallest unit of living matter; the building blocks of all life |
| tissues | a group of similar cells that perform a specific function |
| organs | a group of tissues that work together to do a certain job; examples: skin and the brain |
| organ systems | a group of organs that work together to do a certain job |
| organism | any living thing that can carry out its life on its own |
| nervous system | controls the body |
| central nervous system | made up of the brain and spinal cord |
| peripheral nervous system | all other nerves are the outer nervous system |
| cerebrum | largest part of the brain; controls the 5 senses (taste, smell, touch, hearing, vision) |
| cerebellum | coordinates the skeletal muscles so they work smoothly together |
| neurons | nerve cells in the nervous system with 3 parts: cell body, dendrites, and axon |
| axons | long fibers between nerve cells that carries impulses away from the cell body |
| dendrites | branching nerve fibers that carry impulses or electrical signals to the cell body |
| synapse | gap between neurons that impulses must pass between |
| skeletal system | The supporting frame of the body made of bones. It gives the body shape, protects our organs, and works with muscles to move the body. |
| joint | a place where 2 or more bones meet like at your elbow or knee |
| immovable joints | Places where bones fit together too tightly to move. Ex: skull (except for the lower jaw) |
| partly movable joints | Places where bones can move only a little. Ex: ribs connected to the sternum (breastbone) |
| movable joints | places where bones can move easily |
| gliding joint | Bones can slide against one another and allow some movement in all directions. Ex.: small bones in the wrist and ankle meet at gliding joints |
| hinge joint | Similar to a door hinge because it only allows bones to move back and forth in one direction. Ex.: knee, elbow |
| ball & socket joint | Ball of one bone fits into the socket, or cup, of another allowing bones to move back and forth, in a circle, and side to side. Ex.: hip, shoulder |
| pivot joint | Joint between the skull and neck that allows the head to move up and down, and side to side. Ex.: neck |
| muscular system | Helps with movement in the body. 3 types are skeletal muscle, cardiac muscle, and smooth muscle. |
| skeletal muscles | Muscles that are attached to and move bones by pulling. (Muscles do not push bones.) |
| tendon | a tough cord that attaches muscles to bones  |
| contract | when a muscle becomes shorter and thicker and pulls the bone attached to it |
| stimulus | Anything in the environment that causes your body to adjust. Ex.: touching a sharp object. |
| response | A reaction to a stimulus. Ex.: you pull your hand away |
| cardiac muscles | Found only in the heart; they squeeze the blood out of the heart and when the muscles relax, the heart fills with more blood. |
| smooth muscles | Make up internal organs and blood vessels. Ex.: smooth muscles in the lungs help a person breathe. Those in the blood vessels help control blood flow around the body. |
| circulatory system | Consists of the heart, blood vessels, and blood.  |
| heart | Muscular organ about the size of a fist that beats about 70 to 90 times a minute, pumping blood through blood vessels. |
| arteries | carry blood away from the heart |
| veins | carry blood from other parts of the body to the heart |
| capillaries | narrow blood vessels that blood flows from arteries to veins through |
| atrium |  upper chamber of the heart |
| ventricle | lower chamber of the heart |
| vena cava | blood enters the heart through this |
| aorta | blood leaves the heart through this |
| pulmonary artery | Carries blood from the body to the lungs. |
| pulmonary veins | Returns blood from the lungs to the heart |
| respiratory system | The system that gets and uses oxygen in the body. Consists of the throat, trachea, lungs, alveoli, and diaphragm |
| trachea | Connects your nose and mouth to your bronchial tubes. Also known as your wind pipe. |
| bronchial tubes | You have 2 of these. Each one connects to a different lung. |
| bronchioles | Smaller tubes at the end of each bronchial tube. |
| alveoli | Tiny air sacs at the end of each bronchiole that exchange carbon dioxide for air. |
| digestive system | The system that breaks down food into simple substances the body can use. Includes your teeth, salivary glands, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, and anus. |
| mechanical digestion | Physical process of breaking down food into smaller pieces by chewing or churning food particles. |
| chemical digestion | When saliva breaks down the food into simpler molecules. |
| esophagus | Tube that connects your mouth to your stomach (food pipe). |
| epiglottis  | A flap that tilts backwards during eating to prevent food from going down your voice box (larynx), and then trachea (wind pipe) to your lungs. |
| small intestine | Comes after the stomach in the digestive system where most of the digestion and absorption of food takes place before moving to the large intestine. |
| large intestine | Last part of the digestive system where water is absorbed and the rest of the remaining waste material is stored as feces before being removed through the anus. |
| immune system | The system that helps the body fight disease. These include red marrow, white blood cells, platelets, and lymph nodes. |
| integumentary system | The outer layer of skin that protects your body; the largest organ of the body; includes hair, nails, and glands in your skin. It protects your internal organs, protects your body from injury and infection, helps regulate body temperature, and helps remove wastes. |
| excretory system | The system that deals with the process of removing waste from the body. Includes the liver (filters wastes from the body and turns them into urine), kidneys (urine), and skin (sweat to remove excess heat).  |
| endocrine system | The system that controls hormones (chemicals that control body functions) |
| reproductive system | The system that deals with reproductive organs. |