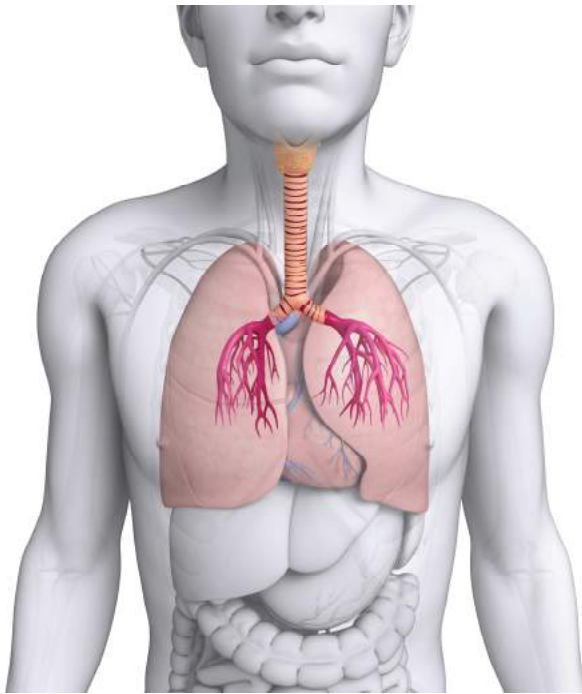


Name: _____



10 Minutes with Science

The Lungs



Lungs are the organs responsible for respiration. They allow you to get the oxygen you need from the outside and expel the carbon dioxide you make. Breathing happens involuntarily, which means you don't even have to think about doing it, because your body already does it alone.

The lungs are two large organs, with a pink color, and a spongy texture. They are found in the chest and because of their size occupy almost the entire chest. They are protected by twelve pairs of ribs, which form the rib cage.

The ribs guard the lungs from any blows they might receive to keep them safe. The lungs are covered by a double layer of lubricated membrane called pleura which are separated from each other by the mediastinum. The pleura prevents the lungs from rubbing against the rib cage which protects them.

Even though the two organs the same, the left lung is a little smaller. This is because it shares the same area with the heart. The left lung weighs approximately 500 grams while the right lung weighs about 600 grams. This weight depends on whether you are male or female.

Below the lungs we find the diaphragm, which helps the lungs when it comes to inhaling and exhaling air. The trachea is tube-shaped and connects directly to the two lungs. It then separates into two large ducts, the bronchus

