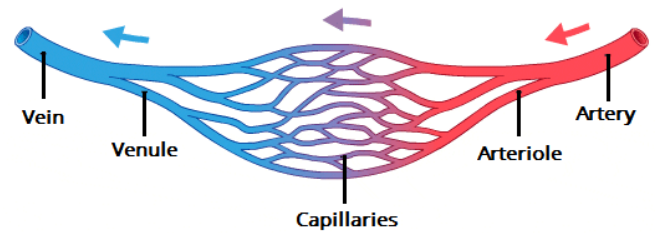


B. BLOOD VESSELS NOTES



1. Arteries

- Carries blood **away** from the heart.
- Thick, elastic, and contain **smooth** muscle.
- Helps push blood, therefore creating **pulse** and blood **pressure**.
- Pulse**- how many times the heart **beats** or **rests**.
 - **** Average pulse in an adult- **~ 70** beats per minute.
- Blood pressure**- how many times the heart beats **over** how many times the heart is at rest.
 - **** Normal blood pressure- **120 / 80**.
- Aorta**- *largest artery. Carries *oxygenated* blood from the **left** ventricle to the **body**.
- Pulmonary artery** - carries *deoxygenated* blood from the **right** ventricle to the **lungs**.

2. Veins

- Carries blood **to** the heart from the body.
- Thin, **no** pulse
- Has **valves** that prevent **backflow** of blood.
- Vena Cavae**- * largest vein. Carries *deoxygenated* blood from the **body** to the **right** atrium.
- Pulmonary vein**- Carries *oxygenated* blood from the **lungs** to the **left** atrium.

3. Capillaries

- Smallest** blood vessel (only **1** cell thick!)
- Connects** the smallest arteries (arterioles) to the smallest veins (venules).
- Each body cell is only **2** cells away from a **capillary**.
- Absorption** occurs here! (O₂, CO₂, nutrients, wastes, etc)
- Most** numerous blood vessels.

