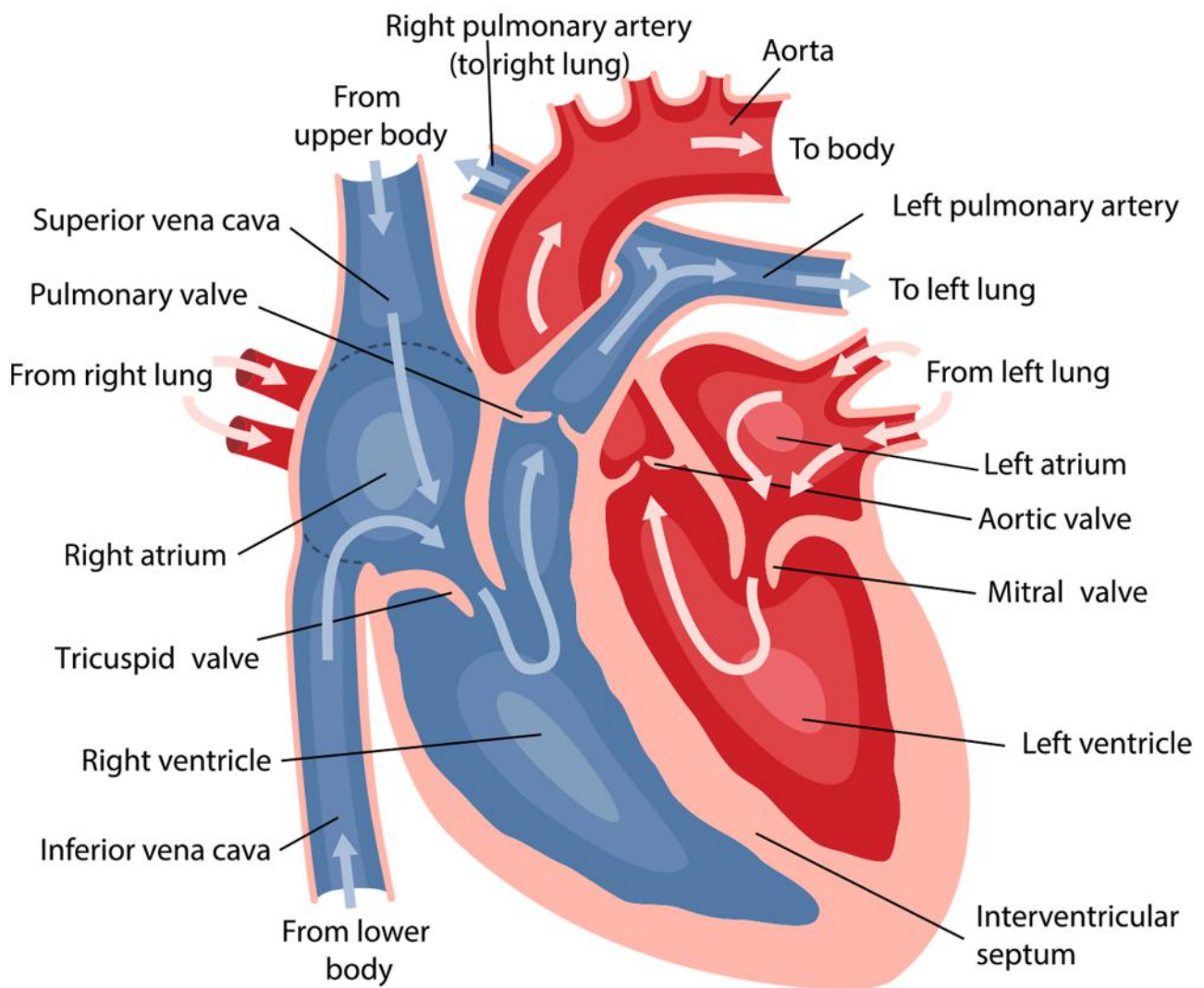


How Does The Human Heart Work?

A fist-sized organ, the human heart is a powerhouse of the body and continuously pumps blood all across the body to keep us alive. The human heart is a muscular organ that is located in the chest, well protected within the rib cage.

The heart is divided into four main chambers. The upper half is divided into two parts and is known as the **right atrium** and **left atrium** respectively. The atrium receives the blood that comes back to the heart from the body and lungs.

Circulation of blood through the heart



The lower half is divided similarly and includes the **right ventricle** and the **left ventricle**. The ventricles pump blood from the heart and supply it to various parts of the body.

A thick muscle wall, known as the **septum**, runs vertically through the middle of the heart.

The four valves of the heart, namely the **tricuspid valve, mitral valve, aortic valve,** and **pulmonary valve** contract each time the heart contracts to pump out blood. These valves ensure that the blood flows in one direction and does not regurgitate back.

The tricuspid valve is located between the right atrium and the right ventricle.

The mitral valve is located between the left atrium and the left ventricle.

The aortic valve is located between the left ventricle and the aorta.

The pulmonary valve is located between the right ventricle and the pulmonary artery.

The blood vessels that carry blood from the heart to the body are known as **arteries**, while the blood vessels that carry blood from the body back to the heart are known as **veins**.

The **aorta** and the **pulmonary artery** are the main arteries that carry the purified blood from the heart to all the parts of the body. The aorta carries blood from the left ventricle and the pulmonary artery carries blood from the right ventricle to transport it to the body through a network of blood vessels.

The lungs send blood to the left atrium through the **pulmonary veins**.

The blood coming from all parts of the body is transferred to the right atrium by both **the inferior vena cava** and **the superior vena cava**.

Identify and label the following parts in the image below:

**Right atrium, Left atrium, Right ventricle, Left ventricle
Tricuspid valve, Mitral valve, Aortic valve, Pulmonary valve, Aorta,
Pulmonary artery, Pulmonary veins, The inferior vena cava,
The superior vena cava.**

