

## Chapter 15 Lesson 2: The Respiratory System

### Introduction:

Breathing is something we all do every day, usually without even thinking about it. In this lesson, you learned about how the respiratory process works. This Web site can teach you more about the different parts of the respiratory system and how your body protects itself from foreign bodies such as dust, bacteria, and viruses.

### Links to Explore:

#### Inside the Human Body: The Respiratory System

[http://www.lung.ca/children/grades7\\_12/respiratory/respiratory\\_system.html](http://www.lung.ca/children/grades7_12/respiratory/respiratory_system.html)

### Directions:

- Click on the link and read the page on the Respiratory System.
  - Then answer the following questions:
1. Explain the purpose of the breathing process.
  2. What is the epiglottis and what function does it perform?
  3. Which part of the respiratory system contains the vocal cords?
  4. What connects the mouth and the throat to the stomach?
  5. How do cilia and mucus work together to remove unwanted matter from the lungs?

### Answers:

1. It supplies the body with oxygen and rids the body of waste matter (carbon dioxide).
2. The epiglottis is a flap of tissue that protects the entrance to the trachea, closing when anything is swallowed that should go into the esophagus and stomach.
3. The larynx
4. The esophagus
5. Mucus traps much of the dust, germs, and other unwanted matter that has invaded the lungs. The wave-like motion of the cilia carries the mucus upward and outward into the throat, where it is either coughed up or swallowed.

### Additional Links to Explore:

Use the links below to gather additional information on the activity topic. When appropriate, have students extend their research to include important concepts contained in these Web sites.

#### National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/lung/index.htm>

**American Lung Association**  
[www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org)

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