

Activities for Chapter 9

Activity 9.1 Dissecting a heart

Skills

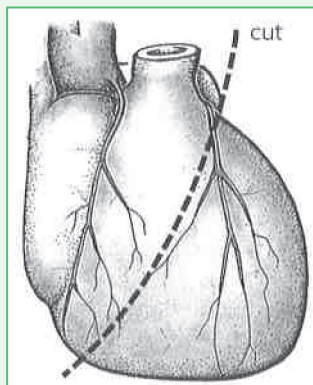
A03.1 Using techniques, apparatus and materials

A03.3 Observing, measuring and recording

You are going to investigate the structure of a heart.

Hearts are no different from any other meat, so there is no need to be concerned about touching it. However, it is sensible to wash your hands carefully after touching it, and to avoid getting blood on your clothes. Wear an old shirt or lab coat if you can.

- 1 Place the heart on the board in front of you, and compare it with the diagram in Figure 9.5 in your Coursebook. Identify as many parts as possible. Make a large, labelled drawing of the heart.
- 2 Using scissors, cut the heart open along a line approximately like the one shown on this diagram.



Place the two halves on the board in front of you, cut side uppermost. Compare what you can see with the diagram in Figure 9.4 in your Coursebook. Identify as many parts as possible.

Make a large, labelled drawing of one of the halves of the heart.

- 3 If you can find the valves between the atria and ventricles, try pushing your fingers into them. Can you work out how they close when the ventricle contracts and pushes blood up against them? You may also be able to find the semilunar valves inside the aorta or the pulmonary artery.
- 4 Find the tendons that hold the valves in position. Think about how they help the valves to work properly.