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Carolina's Perfect Solution® Pig Heart Dissection

Carolina's Perfect Solution® pig heart dissection introduces students to the anatomy of the mammalian heart. This activity allows students to identify the major structures of the heart and gain a better understanding of the path of blood through the heart.

Materials Required

Carolina's Perfect Solution® Pig Heart (228563)
Adjustable Safety Glasses (646705)
Laboratory Aprons Value Pack (706245)
Nitrile Disposable Gloves (706335, 706336, 706337)
Aluminum Dissecting Pan with Vinyl Dissecting Pad (629004)
Student Dissecting Set I (621096)

Activity Procedure

1. Obtain a *Carolina's Perfect Solution®* pig heart and place it on a dissecting tray.
2. Observe the external structures of the heart and identify:
   a. Right atrium
   b. Right ventricle
   c. Left atrium
   d. Left ventricle
   e. Apex
   f. Aorta
   g. Superior vena cava
   h. Pulmonary artery
   i. Pulmonary vein
3. Cut a small opening in the top of the right atrium. After making this cut, you should be able to see in to the chamber of the right atrium. Slide your probe into the superior vena cava and enter the right atrium.
4. Blood from the right atrium flows into the right ventricle. Cut a small opening in the right ventricle.
5. Blood from the right ventricle flows into the pulmonary arteries. Trace right ventricle blood flow using your probe.
6. Cut a small opening in the top of the left atrium. After making this cut, you should be able to see in to the chamber of the left atrium. Slide your probe into the pulmonary vein and enter the left atrium.
7. Blood from the left atrium flows into the left ventricle. Cut a small opening in the left ventricle.
8. Blood from the left ventricle flows into the aorta. Trace left ventricle blood flow using your probe.

Safety

Have students wear safety glasses or goggles, gloves, and lab aprons when dissecting.

Results/Summary

Students should identify the major structures of a mammalian heart and gain a better understanding of blood flow through the heart. Exploring the pig heart can lead to further discussions concerning form and function, specialized tissue types, and the interdependence of organ systems.

Additional Information

View more information, content links, and products related to this activity at **www.carolina.com/takeaways.**

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