

Background Information

The Lungs



The **lungs** are two organs that look like spongy, flexible sacs. The lungs receive oxygen into the body and remove the carbon dioxide and other waste gases that the body does not need. Notice that when the lungs fill with air, the rib cage expands. When the air is blown out, the rib cage relaxes and becomes smaller.

Oxygen from the air enters the body through the nose and mouth where the air is warmed, moistened and cleaned. Oxygen then passes through the windpipe (trachea) through the left and right bronchi (branch-like tubes) and then divides into smaller bronchiole tubes (smaller branch-like tubes). Eventually, the oxygen enters tiny thin air sacs in the lungs that look like bunches of grapes, called alveoli. The alveoli expand and fill like balloons. They relax and deflate when the air is blown out. The oxygen from the alveoli then enters into the bloodstream.

For more information on the respiratory system, see the following link:

http://www.lung.ca/lung101-reneiguez/respiratory-respiratoire/how-comment/index_e.php