

## ✓ Self-Check

How are the structures of arteries and veins related to their functions? (See page 636 to check your answer.)

## Going with the Flow

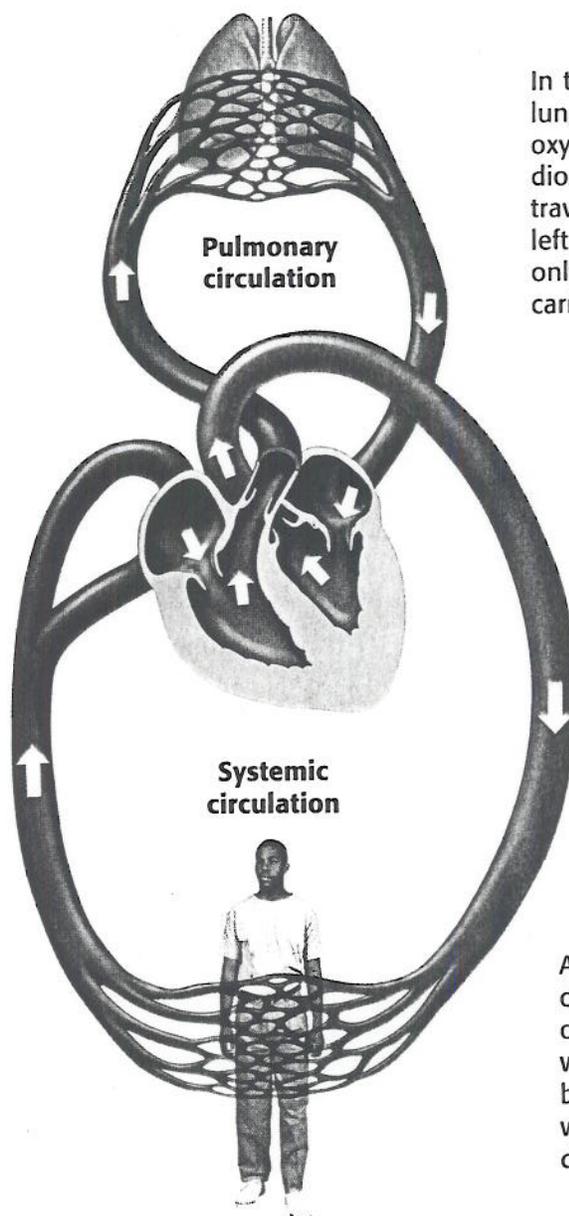
As you read earlier, one important function of your blood is to supply the cells of your body with oxygen. Where does blood get this oxygen? It gets it from your lungs during pulmonary circulation. **Pulmonary circulation** is the circulation of blood between your heart and lungs.

When oxygen-rich blood returns to the heart from the lungs, it must be pumped to the rest of the body. The circulation of blood between the heart and the rest of the body is called **systemic circulation**. Both types of circulation are diagramed below.

## The Flow of Blood Through the Body

The right ventricle pumps oxygen-poor blood into arteries that lead to the lungs. These are the only arteries in the body that carry oxygen-poor blood.

Oxygen-poor blood travels back to the heart and is delivered into the right atrium by two large veins.



In the capillaries of the lungs, blood absorbs oxygen and releases carbon dioxide. Oxygen-rich blood travels through veins to the left atrium. These are the only veins in the body that carry oxygen-rich blood.

The heart pumps oxygen-rich blood from the left ventricle into arteries and then into capillaries.

As blood travels through capillaries, it transports oxygen, nutrients, and water to the cells of the body. At the same time, waste materials and carbon dioxide are carried away.