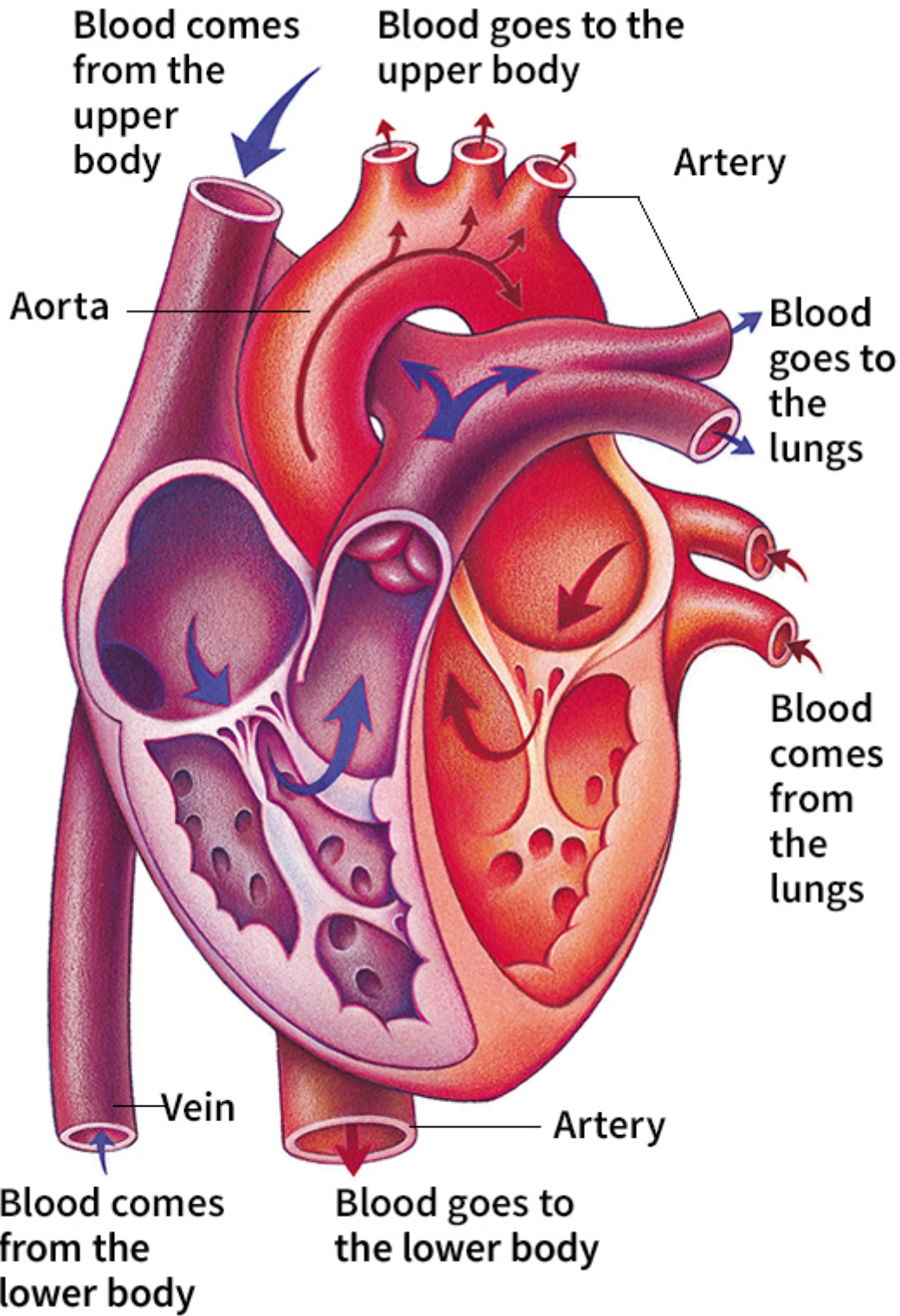


# How the heart pumps blood



World Book illustration by Roberta Polfus

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The pumping of the heart moves blood throughout the body. This cutaway illustration shows the flow of blood through the human heart. Blood carrying carbon dioxide from the body enters the heart through the right atrium (upper chamber), which appears on the left in this head-on view. The heartbeat squeezes the blood into the right ventricle (lower chamber), then out through the pulmonary artery to the lungs. After exchanging carbon dioxide for oxygen in the lungs, blood returns to the heart through the left atrium, seen on the right. The heartbeat forces blood into the left ventricle and out through arteries to the body.

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