The Respiratory System

Name ___________________________
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All cells in our bodies need ____oxygen____ but cannot store very much. We would die in approximately ____4____ minutes without it. When we breathe, lungs soak up oxygen and transfer it to the ____blood____ where it is pumped through your body. In the cells, oxygen is turned into energy.

Air enters the body through the ____nose____ and mouth. The air is warmed in the nose, and the nostrils are lined with ____hair____ and ____mucus____ to filter dust.

The small piece of cartilage in your throat that opens and closes to let air and food down different passages is called the ____epiglottis____. The main airway to your lungs is called the windpipe or ____trachea____.

Your lungs can be compared to pinkish-grey ____sponges____ that soak up oxygen. The network of air passages found here is called the ____bronchial____ tree. The smallest tubes end in little round sacs one cell thick called ____alveoli____. This is where red blood cells pick up oxygen and release carbon dioxide. There are ____600 million____ alveoli in our lungs. There is a small space in the ____upper____ ____left____ lobe where the heart fits.

A large muscular sheet called the ____diaphragm____ helps you breathe; It flattens out and moves downwards when you ____inhale____ and springs back and moves upwards when you ____exhale____.
The average adult breathes 16 times every minute, and 30 - 60 times every minute after heavy exercise.

A disease of the lungs is asthma. Some asthmas triggers are animals, moulds, pollen and air pollutants. (samples only – answers will vary)

The major organs of the respiratory system are: lungs, windpipe, and blood vessels.

The major tissues of the respiratory system are: epithelial, nerve, connective, muscle.

The major function of the respiratory system is: gas exchange.
