

The Gift of a Lifetime

Investigations into Organ and Tissue Transplantation

Grades 9-12

Every day in the United States thousands of people receive life-saving organ, tissue and bone marrow transplants. This miracle of high-tech health care is made possible only by something entirely low tech — the extraordinary altruistic gifts and generosity of donors.

High school students are faced with many important decisions related to jobs, relationships, college, driving and, yes, organ donation. Today, in

virtually every state in the nation, young people are asked to decide if they will become organ and tissue donors at the time they obtain their drivers licenses. Unfortunately, many are ill-prepared to make this important decision.



The Gift of a Lifetime is an educational web documentary that weaves together in-depth information about donation with the real-world stories of transplant recipients, donors and health care professionals. Organ and tissue donation and transplantation provides a unique opportunity for young people to explore health literacy and technology, quality of life issues and examine the rights and responsibility of citizens.

The Gift of a Lifetime website can be used across curriculum to introduce organ and tissue donation to students as well as in conjunction with other classroom learning. What follows are suggested “**Investigation Activities**” in which students — individually or in groups — use website content and other sources to examine donation and transplantation through a variety of authentic tasks. Journal worksheets and other tools are provided for your students to document their observations on the website.



Coalition on Donation



Recommendations for Teachers



The “Investigation Activities” are designed so that teachers can assign students roles as Researchers, Journalists, Scientists, etc. to study, document and report on the subject of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

- 1.** Have students read and follow the stories in *Transplant Journey* and use as part of the Investigation Activities.
- 2.** Have students keep a journal during the donation unit in order to nurture reflective thinking. Use the Investigations as assignments for individual students, pairs, triads, or small groups.
- 3.** Contact your local chapter of the **Coalition on Donation** for local resources including people who have received transplants, families of donors, and transplant physicians. For contacts, go to: www.DonateLife.net
- 4.** Use daily debriefings as a strategy for anchoring students with accurate information while debunking the myths and misinformation encountered.

Teacher Tips

♥ **Use emotion to increase student learning.** The Gift of a Lifetime website provides students with an opportunity to engage emotionally with content about organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

“When emotions are engaged right after a learning experience, the memories are much more likely to be recalled and accuracy goes up...Engage emotions as a part of learning, not as an add on.”

— By Eric Jensen, *Teaching with the Brain In Mind*

✦ **Incorporate learning activities which span the multiple intelligences** (verbal/linguistic; logical/mathematical; visual/spatial; bodily/kinesthetic; musical/rhythmic; intrapersonal; interpersonal; and naturalist, according to Howard Gardner in *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences*, 1983).

Investigation Activities



Teacher Notes

Before your class studies organ and tissue donation and transplantation, do the following:

1. Identify small groups (4-6) of students.
2. Have each group brainstorm a list of 15-20 questions about organ and tissue donation and transplantation. (If students need ideas or more structure, see Researcher puzzle on grades 5-8 activities for possible questions.)
3. The group will divide up the questions among the group's members so that each member will be responsible for researching a portion of the questions.
4. Group members will report back to their small group so that information on all questions is presented to all members.
5. Findings will be shared with the class in written form with sources cited to enable students to pursue additional research.

The Gift of a Lifetime

Investigation 1: Researcher

You are a member of a research team for a publishing company. Your team has been asked to submit a college textbook chapter on organ and tissue donation and transplantation. After you identify your questions, your team will use The Gift of a Lifetime website www.OrganTransplants.org and other resources to find the information you need. Record your answers with sources listed so that you will be able to share with your supervisor and the rest of your team. Your team will compile all information into a chapter, which will be shared with your supervisor and the rest of the class.

Extension:

Using photos or illustrations, "publish" your chapter and share with your supervisor and the class.

The Gift of a Lifetime

Investigation 2: Journalist

You are a journalist and a member of your local journalism club. Review The Gift of a Lifetime website www.OrganTransplants.org and read or listen to the stories in the Transplant Journey and Faces of Donation sections. Write a letter to one of the individuals in the Faces of Donation section. Your letter is to be turned in to your teacher and may be submitted on The Gift of a Lifetime website.

Extension:

Write letters to a donor family, recipient, and someone who is waiting for a transplant. Reflect on the different perspectives of these individuals. Summarize your thoughts about this in a three-paragraph theme to be given with your letters to your teacher. Or interview someone who is waiting for an organ transplant. Then submit a story or letter to the editor to a local paper or school publication.

The Gift of a Lifetime

Investigation 3: Scientist

You are a scientist for a medical research foundation. Investigate the Interactive Body found on The Gift of a Lifetime website www.OrganTransplants.org and other resources such as University of Minnesota Web Anatomy website, (www.gen.umn.edu/faculty_staff/jensen/1135/webanatomy/). Select to study one body system. Write an article for a medical journal about the system and make a presentation to your class about the organ. Include factual information about donation in your article and presentation. Use a visual aid during your presentation.

Extension:

Create a model of the system illustrating key features of the system. You may make drawings to help explain the system.



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Investigation 4: Interviewer

You are an interviewer for your local television station. Review each day of the transplant journey found on The Gift of a Lifetime website www.OrganTransplants.org. List 5 questions you want to ask your parent or guardian about donation and transplantation on The Gift of a Lifetime Interview Worksheet. Conduct an interview with your parent or guardian and record their answers on the Interview Worksheet provided.

Extension:

Interview two adults from each of three different age groups. Possible age groups are: **a)** 18 - 34 **b)** 35-54 **c)** Over 55. Compare their answers. What are the similarities and differences in the answers? Identify myths and misconceptions about donation and how these can impact decisions about donation. Describe these in a news report for your supervisor and the class.

The Gift of a Lifetime

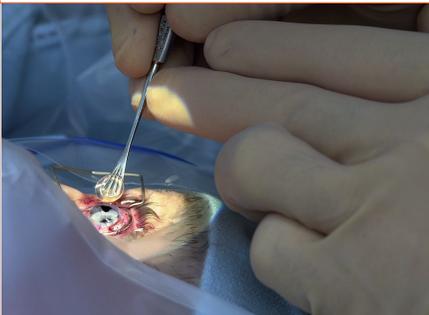
Investigation 5: Project Coordinator

You are a project coordinator for your local high school service club. Review the Gift of a Lifetime website www.OrganTransplants.org. Create a donation awareness campaign at your school using the Faces of Donation stories and facts about donation and transplantation; this might also be connected to the drivers license program or other registry for donors. Also, consider how an organ and tissue donor awareness campaign could be implemented in connection with a blood drive.



Extension:

Create a community service learning project for your class that will promote awareness about organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Use your local Coalition on Donation chapter as a resource. See: www.Donatelife.net.



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Investigation 6: Futurist

You are a futurist for a publishing company. You have been asked to write a medical textbook chapter on the future of donation and transplantation. Review the historical timeline on The Gift of a Lifetime website www.OrganTransplants.org.

Statistics about donation and transplantation from the past ten years should be presented in your chapter and you may include photographs or illustrations. Predict the medical practices in 2010, 2020, and 2050. Base your predictions on current medical practices and research. You will submit your chapter to your supervisor and your teacher. You will also make a presentation to your class which summarizes your chapter.

Other helpful sites include:

United Network for Organ Sharing, www.UNOS.org

Division of Transplantation, www.OrganDonor.gov

The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, www.OPTN.org/

Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients, www.USTransplant.org/

Extension:

Write a chapter about the medical research which needs to be done to improve outcomes in organ and tissue transplantation. Base your findings on current medical practices and research. You will submit your chapter to your supervisor and your teacher. You will also make a presentation to your class which summarizes your chapter.

The Gift of a Lifetime

Interview Worksheet

Directions:

1. Prepare a list of questions for an interview with an adult (family member or friend) about organ and tissue donation and transplantation.
2. Conduct the interview and write the responses. Responses should be shared with the class only if the student and an adult or family member are willing, and the adult has signed this form giving permission to share the information.
3. You may type out your questions and responses on a separate page.

Interview by _____
(Student's Name)

Adult interviewed _____

Adult is _____
(Parent, Guardian, Friend, Grandparent, Etc.)

I give my permission for this information to be shared with the student's class.

(Signature) (Date)

Question 1

Response

Question 2

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Response

Question 3

Response

Question 4

Response

Question 5

Response

Additional Comments

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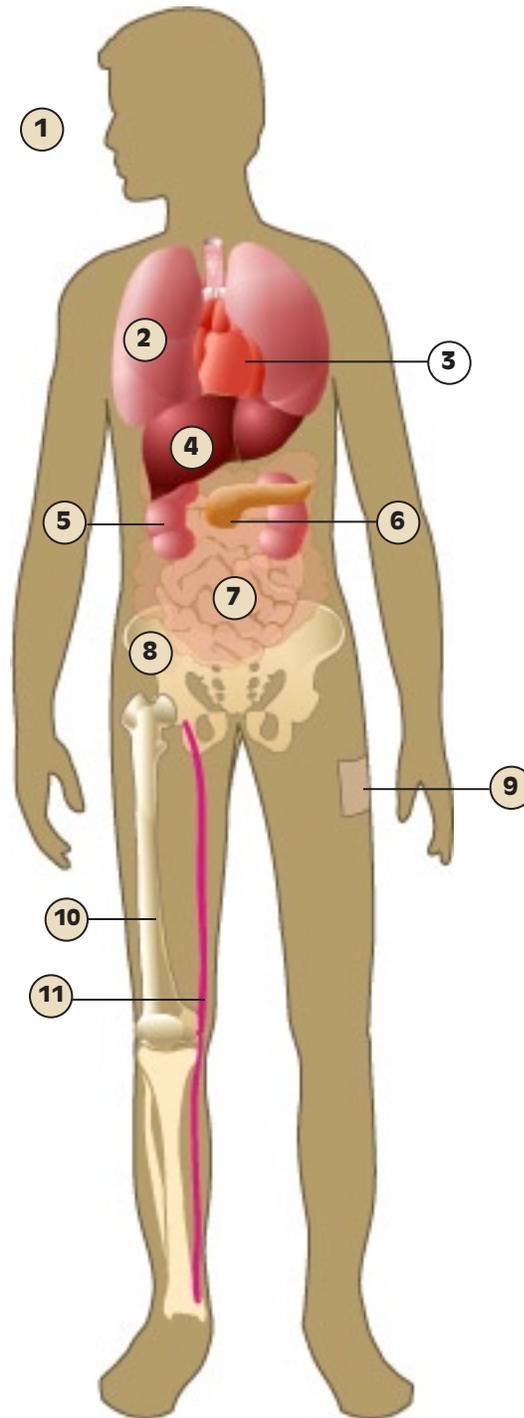
Organs and tissues for transplantation

Instructions

Go to www.OrganTransplants.org and Link to "Understanding Donation" and view the "Interactive Body."

On the back of this page identify and write a brief description of each organ and tissue.

Describe a transplant or donation fact for each organ and tissue.



The Gift of a Lifetime

Additional Online and Reading Resources

Websites

- * **The Gift of a Lifetime**, www.OrganTransplants.org
- * **Coalition on Donation**, www.DonateLife.net
- * **United Network for Organ Sharing**, www.UNOS.org
- * **Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation**, www.MTF.org
- * **Division of Transplantation**, www.OrganDonor.gov
- * **National Kidney Foundation**, www.Kidney.org
- * **The Nicholas Green Foundation**, www.Nicholasgreen.org
- * **The James Redford Institute for Transplant Awareness**, www.JRIfilms.org
- * **The Marrow Foundation**, www.TheMarrowFoundation.org
- * **National Marrow Donor Program**, www.BoneMarrow.org
- * **National Marrow Donor Program**, www.Marrow.org
- * **Eye Bank Association of America**, www.Restoresight.org
- * **Sandrine's Gift of Life**, www.Sandrinesgift.com
- * **University of Minnesota Web Anatomy** www.gen.umn.edu/faculty_staff/jensen/1135/webanatomy/

Corneal Blindness Glasses show students what is seen by a patient who needs a cornea transplant. Contact the Eye Bank Association of America, (202) 775-4999

Books about Donation, Transplant and Coping With Loss

For Children

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Learning to Say Goodbye: When a Parent Dies by Eda LeShan

The Mulberry Music: Death of a Grandparent by Doris Orgel

Rachel & The Upside Down Heart by Eileen Douglas

Sarah's Journey: One Child's Experience with Death of Her Father by Alan Wolfelt

When Mommy Died: A Child's View of Death by Janice Hammond

Why Did Daddy Die by Linda Alderman

Donor Banks: Saving Lives with Organ & Tissue Transplants by Salley Lee

Spare Parts for People by Margery Facklam

How Will They Get That Heart Down Your Throat? By Karne Walton

Barkley and Eve Explain Organ Donation by Karen L. Carney

The Gift of a Lifetime

Additional Online and Reading Resources

Justin's Journey: My Life as a Kid With Kidney Disease by Justin Hill

**Lizzy Gets A New Liver* by Lizzy Ribal

**Red's True Heart* by J.A. Freeman

When Daddy Got Sick: A Story About Organ Transplantation by Shawn McCreight

When Someone Very Special Dies by Marge Heegaard

A New Heart for Hannah by Jessie Flynn

There's A Little Bit of Me in Jamey by Diana Amadeo

The Fall of Freddy the Leaf by Leo Buscaglia

For Teenagers and Adults

For Those Who Live by Kathy La Tour

The Grieving Child: A Parent's Guide by Helen Fitzgerald

Helping Children Cope With Grief by Alan Wolfelt

How it Feels When A Parent Dies by Jill Krementz

Saving Jessica by Lurlene McDaniels

She Died Too Young by Lurlene McDaniels

Someone Dies, Someone Lives by Lurlene McDaniels

The Nicholas Effect. A Boy's Gift to the World by Reg Green

A Gift of Life: A Page from the Life of a Living Organ Donor by Lynn Chabot-Long

Hope From My Heart by Rich DeVos

It Gets Dark Sometimes: My Sister's Fight to Live and Save Lives by Jeffrey Marx

LifeLine, How One Night Changed Five Lives, A True Story by Mary Zimmeth Schomaker

Organ Transplants: Making the Most of Your Gift of Life by Robert Finn

Second Chances: Receiving the Gift of Life by Jeff Lueders

Am I Still A Sister? By Alicia M. Sims

Losing Someone You Love: When Brother or Sister Dies by Elizabeth Richter

Recovering From The Loss of A Sibling by Katherine Donnelly

**English and Spanish*