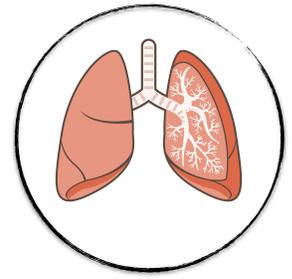


The Lungs

and the breath we take



The lungs are a vital part of our body. We need oxygen to live. So it is our lungs that get that oxygen from the air around us into our body. The air around us is made up of two main parts, oxygen and carbon dioxide.

We breathe air into our nose or mouth. Then it goes into our **trachea**, also known as a windpipe. The trachea is next to the esophagus. But instead of going into the stomach, the trachea sends air into the lungs.

We have two lungs. These are called **lobes**. We have a right lobe and a left lobe. In each of our lobes are a series of branches that look like a tree.

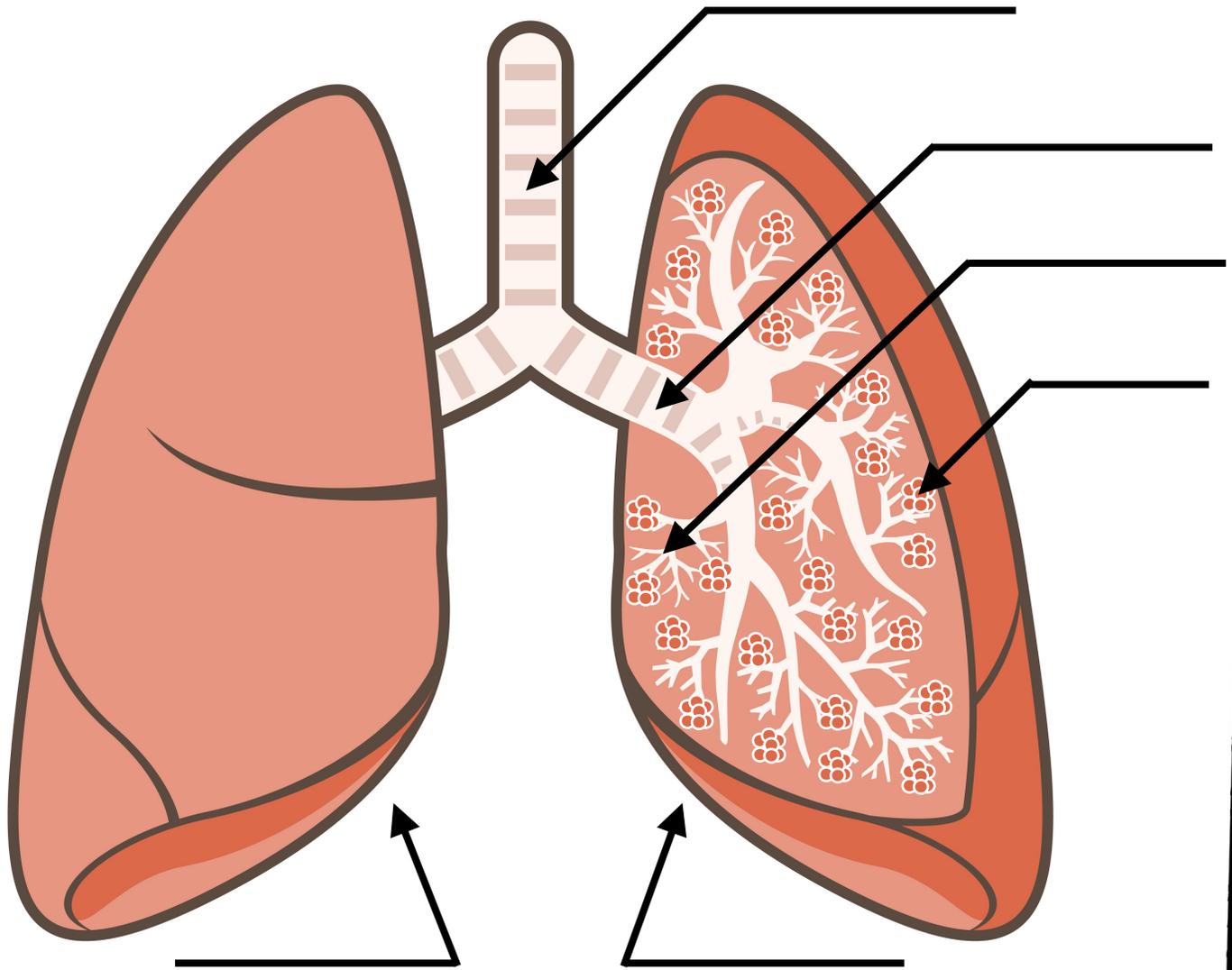
When the air enters the lobes of our lungs it first enters the **bronchus**. The bronchus is like the trunk of a tree. It is the widest part of the branch system in our lungs. The bronchus divides into main branches. The branches of the bronchus are lined with cartilage to hold their shape. Cartilage is the same stuff that the outside of your ear is made of. There is mucus in this part of the lungs too. Mucus is pushed around by little hairs. The mucus helps to clear the lungs of dirt, and germs that may get into your lungs. That is why when you are sick there is more mucus in your lungs.

As the branches get smaller they are called **bronchioles**. Unlike the bronchus, the smaller bronchioles are not lined. Instead, they are smooth and stretchy. When you need more oxygen in your body, like when you are exercising, your bronchioles can stretch and become wider so more oxygen can get to your body. Or they can shrink when you are breathing in bad or polluted air.

Eventually at the end of the bronchioles are the **Alveoli**. These are air sacs at the end of your lungs. These air sacs take the oxygen from the air and send it to the blood through the **capillaries**. The alveoli and the capillaries are connected through a very thin wall that lets the oxygen move between them.

The Lungs

Label the Lungs with the Words Below



Trachea
(windpipe)

Bronchioles

Right
Lobe

Bronchus

Left
Lobe

Alveoli

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Describe how the model of the lungs you made helps you to explain how your lungs work:
