

## Blood Flow Chart

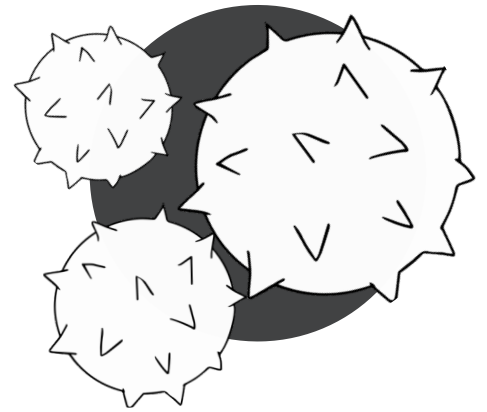
This activity was created by Toni.

Have you ever wondered how your body heals? How do cuts go from open and bleeding, to closed and covered in new skin? The answer is in your blood. Blood contains different components that help your body heal from an injury, such as a cut. There are four major components:

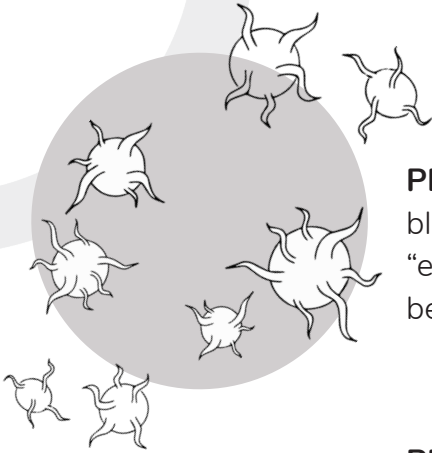


**RED BLOOD CELLS** bring oxygen to different parts of your body, so that those areas have energy to function properly. Sometimes, this means helping give the area more energy to recover from an injury.

**WHITE BLOOD CELLS** are like soldiers. They work to fight off illness and infection in the body and protect your body from being unhealthy.



**PLATELETS** are like a plug in a drain. When you get a cut, you bleed. A platelet's job is to stop the bleeding by clogging the "exit". Platelets come together in one area to create a barrier between the inside of your body and the outside world.



**PLASMA** is like your body's bussing or train system. It is responsible for transporting blood cells, nutrients, and waste throughout the body. Without plasma to carry them, red blood cells wouldn't be able to bring oxygen and energy to your body, white blood cells wouldn't be able to reach the sites of infections and illnesses, and platelets wouldn't be able to get to a wound to stop it from bleeding.

Imagine you've scraped your knee. Look at the flow chart on the next page. Fill in the blank spaces with one of the four components you've just learned. How do you think those components are working to heal you? Do you notice any patterns?

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

