6th Grade Unit. Activity 2: “The Heart – What Do You Know?”

Self-assessment:
How did you do? Compare your answers to answers below and make corrections.

1.) What is the heart’s job?
*The heart’s job is to pump blood through the body.*

2.) Can a person live without a heart?
*A person cannot live without a heart.*

3.) Please explain your answer to Question 2.
*If blood cannot get to a part of the body, like the brain, the cells in that part of the body will die. Without a heart, blood cannot be pumped to the various parts of the body.*

4.) Why is the heart located where it is?
*The center of the chest is a good location for the heart because it is centrally located in the body. The blood doesn’t have to travel far to get to body’s extremities. It is not in the exact center, however, but higher than the center of the body. This is a good location because it is harder to pump the blood up than to pump the blood down.*

5.) What else do you know about the heart?

- *The heart is a muscular organ.*
- *Most of the cells of the heart are muscle cells.*
- *The human heart has four chambers.*
- *The human heart is about the size of a clenched fist.*
- *The heart is located in the center of the chest behind the sternum, or breastbone.*
- *The heart is attached to several major blood vessels, which carry blood to and from the body.*
- *On average, the human heart beats about 72 times per minute.*