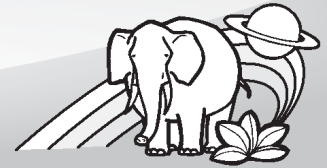
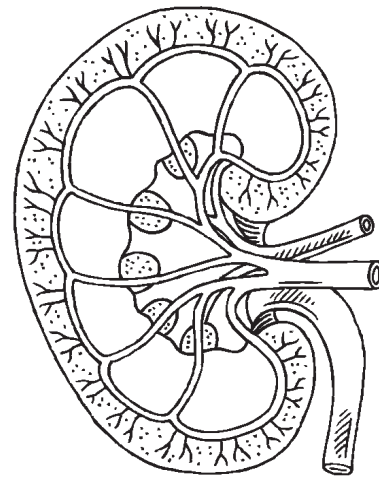


# Saving Richard Herrick



Richard Herrick was dying. He was only 23 years old. Richard's kidneys were not working. People are born with two kidneys. Kidneys are reddish-brown organs. An organ is a part of an animal or plant that is made of similar cells or tissues and performs a particular function, or purpose. The heart, liver, and lung are all different organs.

Kidneys have three important jobs. The first job is to regulate, or to control, the amount of water in the body. The second job is to produce vital hormones. When something is vital, it is necessary. The third job is to remove liquid waste from the body. It does this by taking extra water, salt, and waste from the blood to make urine. Richard's kidneys were so damaged that they were not functioning. They were unable to regulate the amount of water in his body or make urine.



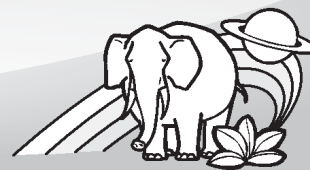
**kidney**

The year was 1954. At that time, no one had ever transplanted a human kidney. A kidney from one person had never been put into another person. Dr. Joseph Murray was willing to try. Dr. Murray knew that Richard's body would reject another person's kidney, but Richard had an identical twin. Dr. Murray thought that because the twins were identical, Richard's brother would not reject the transplant.

Before the surgery took place, there was a serious question to be answered. The question dealt with ethics. Ethics deals with what is right and wrong. If Dr. Murray removed the Richard's twin's kidney, he was doing something for the first time in medical history. He was doing major surgery on a normal, healthy person. The surgery was not for the healthy person's benefit, or good. Was the surgery ethical? Was it right?

People agreed that the surgery was ethical. The surgery was a success. Richard's life was saved. Today, thanks to Dr. Murray, many people have had successful kidney transplants. New drugs have helped people to benefit from the surgery. This is because the new drugs help people's bodies to accept the new kidneys even if they are not identical.

# Saving Richard Herrick



After reading the story, answer the questions.  
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. This story is mainly about
  - (a) what kidneys do.
  - (b) Dr. Murray and ethics.
  - (c) the first kidney transplant.
  - (d) Richard and his identical twin.
2. The kidney is not responsible for which job?
  - (a) producing vital hormones
  - (b) accepting transplanted organs
  - (c) regulating the amount of water in the body
  - (d) removing liquid body waste by making urine
3. Think about how the word *benefit* relates to *help*. What two words relate in the same way?

**benefit : help**

  - (a) organ : kidney
  - (b) ethical : wrong
  - (c) vital : necessary
  - (d) identical : different
4. What answer below is a question dealing with ethics?
  - (a) Is it okay to read a book during recess?
  - (b) Is it okay to skip breakfast in the morning?
  - (c) Is it okay to stay up late and watch a movie?
  - (d) Is it okay to steal medicine for a sick person?
5. From the story, you can tell that
  - (a) doctors do not care about ethics.
  - (b) people need only one functioning kidney.
  - (c) the liver and heart are the same type of organ.
  - (d) kidney transplants are done only on identical twins.