

Anatomy & Physiology: THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM



► The **respiratory system** is responsible for the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide between the blood and the environment.

TERMS

alveoli: tiny air sacs located at the ends of the bronchioles where gas exchange with the blood occurs

bronchi (left and right): divisions of the trachea that direct air into the left or right lung

bronchioles: divisions of the bronchi that branch throughout the lungs, carrying air throughout them

diaphragm: large muscle that crosses the thoracic cavity and separates the lungs from organs in the abdomen; facilitates breathing

exhalation: the second stage of breathing in which the thoracic cavity contracts and the diaphragm relaxes, allowing air to leave the lungs, expelling carbon dioxide

external respiration: the process of gas exchange between the alveoli and the blood

inhalation: the first stage of breathing in which the thoracic cavity expands and the diaphragm contracts, decreasing pressure on the lungs and allowing air to flow into the body

larynx: location of the vocal cords at the top of the trachea

lungs: paired organs that breathe and exchange gases

pulmonary ventilation: breathing

respiration: process of exchanging gases between the atmosphere and animal cells

thoracic cavity: space enclosed by the ribs that contains the lungs and the heart

trachea: branch that delivers gases to the lungs

PARTS OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

