valves of the heart

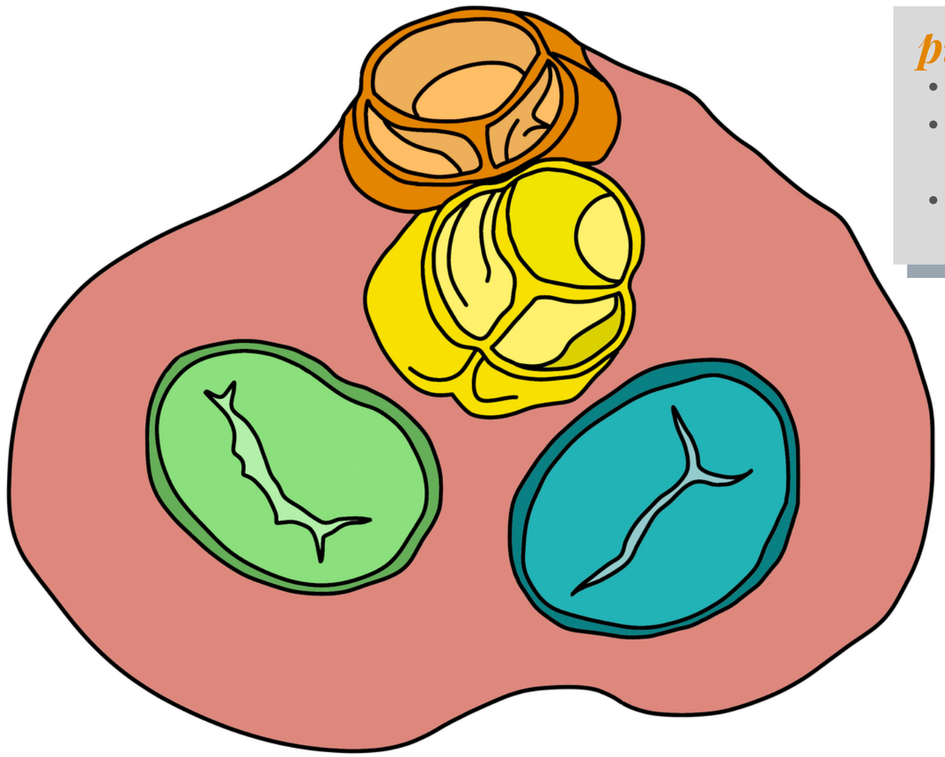
Valves are little flaps along the vessels that help the blood to travel in one direction. Because of this, it cannot travel backwards. By preventing the back flow of blood, circulation can remain continuous and not stagnant. Valves are in two areas; one between the atria and ventricles, and another between ventricles and arteries.

left atrioventricular valve

- Two semi-lunar valves
- Located between left atrium and left ventricle
- Prevents back flow of blood from left atrium while left ventricle is contracting
- AKA: Bicuspid/Mitral Valve

aortic semilunar valve

- Three semi-lunar valves
- Located between aorta and left ventricle
- Prevents back flow of blood from aorta back to left ventricle



left side

right side

pulmonary semilunar valve

- Three semi-lunar valves
- Located between pulmonary artery and right ventricle
- Prevents back flow of blood from artery back to right ventricle

right atrioventricular valve

- Three semi-lunar valves
- Located between right atrium and right ventricle
- Prevents back flow of blood from right atrium while right ventricle is contracting
- AKA: Tricuspid valve

notes:

- Use the "General Anatomy" Worksheet to picture where each valve is connected to which chamber(s)
- The left atrioventricular (or bicuspid/ mitral) valve is the only valve out of the four to have TWO flaps, and not three
- This diagram is presented directionally to us, rather than flipped, so be aware of the directional difference of this diagram to others

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for the daily dosage