

The Respiratory System

Purpose: to provide the body with a fresh supply of oxygen for cellular respiration and remove the waste product carbon dioxide

Major Organs and Their Functions

Nose – internal entry and exit point for air

Pharynx – serves as a passage way for both air and food at the back of the throat

Larynx – your “voicebox”, as air passes over your vocal chords, you speak

Trachea – the “windpipe”, or what connects your pharynx to your lungs

-- a piece of skin, called the **epiglottis**, covers the trachea when you swallow, preventing food from entering

Bronchi – the two large passageways that lead from the trachea to your lungs (one for each lung)

- the bronchi are further subdivided into bronchioles

- eventually, the further subdivisions lead to tiny air sacs called **alveoli**

 - alveoli are in clusters, like grapes

 - capillaries surrounding each alveolus is where the exchange of gases with the blood occurs

The **diaphragm** is the muscle that causes you to breath

- hiccups are involuntary contractions of the diaphragm

Image of the Respiratory System

