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## Science Shorts -7

### Body Organization

Your wonderful machine is, of course, your own body. To start understanding how this “machine” works, you need to understand how your body is organized. As you know, you are a living organism. All living things have certain characteristics. One characteristic of all living things is that they are made of cells. Your body is made of trillions of very tiny cells. These cells are the building blocks of your body.

A cell is somewhat like a brick, except, of course, a brick is not living, but a cell is alive. Cells can be found in different shapes and sizes. They even come in different colors. Sometimes the cells work alone. An example of a cell that works alone is the red blood cell that carries oxygen to other body cells.

Most of the time cells work together with other cells. When groups of cells work together to do the same job, they are called tissue. Bone cells work together to form bone tissue. Muscle cells work together to form muscle tissue. Nerve cells also work together to form nerve tissue.

Sometimes tissues need to work together, too, to get the job done right. Different kinds of tissues may work together to do the same job. Tissues that work together are called organs. Your heart is an organ. Muscle cells work together to form heart tissue. Heart tissues work together to form the wonderful pump that moves your blood around inside your body. There are many other organs in your body, such as your brain, your lungs and your stomach.

To make your body be the best possible machine, a lot of cooperation is necessary. Cells, tissues and organs must work together to get very important jobs done. These parts working together are called a system. Your body has a number of systems that keep it working properly. We will take a look six of those systems on our way to the frog dissection.

The systems we will look at are the skeletal, circulatory, digestive, respiratory, excretory and reproductive systems. We will identify the important parts of each of those systems as well as their functions.

Directions: Fill in the bubbles with the information found in the reading.

### A Graphic Organizer: Body Organization

