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## Science Shorts

### The Excretory System

The excretory system works with several other systems to do its jobs. The excretory system has one main job, and it is a very important one. It must remove wastes from the body. Your body actually makes three different types of wastes: solid, liquid and gaseous. Each kind of waste is removed by a different part of your body.

There are four main parts that work together to remove all the wastes from the body. First of all, solid food wastes are removed by the large intestine. The large intestine is part of the digestive system. When the nutrients and water have been removed from your food, the remaining wastes are stored in the rectum and then removed from the body by the anus. The large intestine takes care of solid wastes.

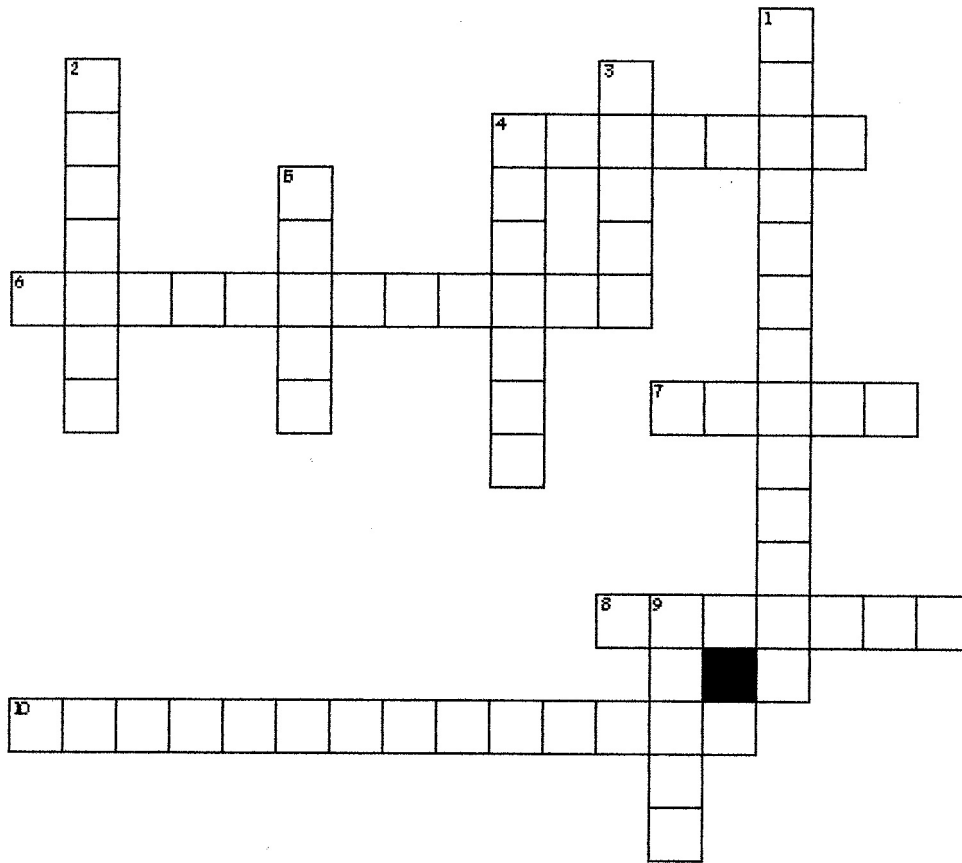
The second part of the body that removes wastes is the lungs. The lungs are part of the respiratory system. The lungs allow oxygen to move into the blood and also accept waste gases, carbon dioxide, from the blood. The carbon dioxide is passed into the atmosphere through your mouth and nose. The lungs take care of the gaseous wastes in your body.

That leaves us with the liquid wastes. They are removed by the urinary system and by the skin. The major parts of the urinary system are the kidneys. They are shaped like lima beans and are found just above your waist, on the back of your body. Your kidneys clean all of the blood in your body more than 50 times each day. They take all of the wastes from the blood and make urine.

The urine leaves the kidneys through the ureters. They are very narrow tubes that take the urine from the kidneys to the bladder. The bladder is a muscular sac that stretches to hold the urine. When your bladder feels full, special muscles at the bottom of the bladder help you release urine. When the urine is released from the bladder, it travels into the urethra. The urethra is a tube that leads from the bladder out of the body. It is the last part of the urinary system.

You also sweat to get rid of liquid wastes. Your skin has sweat glands in it. When blood arrives at the sweat glands, some of the water, urea and salts are removed from the blood. Sweat is mostly water. The sweat moves from the glands through holes in your skin that are called pores. When the water in the sweat evaporates to cool off your body the salts stay on your skin. They will stay on your skin until you wash them off. That is why it is important to take a bath every day.

# Excretory System



## Across

4. Tubes that take urine from kidneys to bladder
6. Main job of Excretory System
7. Liquid made by kidneys
8. muscular sac that holds the urine
10. Organ that removes solid food wastes

## Down

1. Waste gas
2. Major parts of urinary system
3. Shape of kidneys
4. Tube that leads from bladder out of the body
5. Type of liquid waste released from skin
9. Organs that take care of gaseous wastes