Lymphatic System

The lymphatic system is a group of organs and tissues that collect the excess fluid squeezed out of capillaries with the pumping of your heart, and returns is to your blood. It also helps your body fight pathogens

1. Vessels of the Lymphatic System
2. Lymph capillaries – the smallest vessels of the lymphatic system. They absorb some of the fluid and particles from between the cells, like dead cells and pathogens. The fluid and particles that are absorbed are called lymph.
3. Lymphatic vessels – larger vessels that the capillaries carry lymph into. Skeletal muscles squeeze the lymph through the lymphatic vessels to drain into the large neck veins of the cardiovascular system
4. Other Parts of the Lymphatic System
5. Bone marrow – where most read and white blood cells, including lymphocytes, are produced. Lymphocytes are a type of white blood cell that helps your body fight pathogens
6. Lymph nodes – small, bean-shaped masses of tissue that remove pathogens and dead cells from the lymph
7. Concentrated in armpits, neck, and groin
8. Contain lymphocytes, called killer T-cells, that surround and destroy pathogens and others, B-cells, that produce antibodies that attach to pathogens
9. When pathogens cause infection, WBCs multiply greatly and the lymph nodes become full of WBCs. Nodes become swollen and painful. Swollen lymph nodes are a sign of an infection
10. Thymus – the gland that produces T-cells that are ready to fight infection
11. Immature lymphocytes, produced in the bone marrow, develop further in the thymus
12. Spleen – largest lymphatic organ, it is a soft, spongy, purplish organ about the size of your fist and located in the upper left side of your abdomen. The spleen has two important functions
13. White pulp – helps to fight infections; as blood flows through the spleen lymphocytes attack or mark pathogens in the blood. It may also release lymphocytes into the bloodstream
14. Red pulp – removes unwanted material, such as defective red blood cells, from the blood and may reuse parts of them
15. Tonsils – small, rounded masses of lymphatic tissue located in the pharynx and in the passage from the mouth to the pharynx
16. Lymphocytes in the tonsils trap pathogens that enter the throat