

Blood Fun and Facts



American Red Cross

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

Is blood blue? Are aliens attracted to my blood type?
Find the answers to these questions and other fascinating facts below!

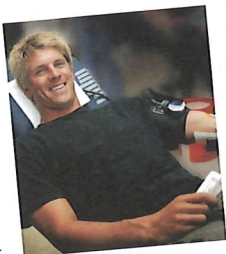
Round and round it goes!

If all the blood vessels in your body were laid end to end, they would reach about 60,000 miles. That is long enough to go around the world twice.



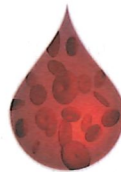
How much blood can you give in your lifetime?

You could conceivably donate **46.5 gallons** of blood if you begin at age 17 and donate every 56 days until you reach age 79. If only one more percent of all Americans would donate, blood shortages would disappear for the near future.



Maybe you have too much blood?

Since blood is heavier than water, the old saying "blood is thicker than water" is true! Blood contains a ton of proteins and cells, which weigh considerably more than plain old water!



Is blood blue?

Despite popular belief, the blood inside your body is not blue. Your veins look bluish because of the surrounding tissues. And since blood carries oxygen, you can forget the myth that exposure to the air turns blood red.



History in motion?

In the early nineteenth century, some advertisements claimed that riding the carousel was good for blood circulation.



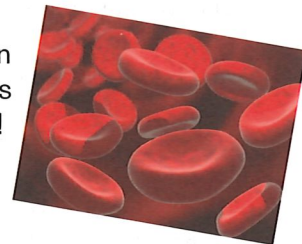
How much blood do you have?

There are about 10 pints of blood in the body of an average adult. Blood makes up about seven percent of your body's weight. A newborn baby has about one cup of blood in his body. Half your body's blood cells are replaced every seven days. The kidneys filter over 400 gallons of blood each day.



Who knew?

Red blood cells are the only cells in your body that don't have a nucleus or any DNA. They aren't even alive!



Did she just bite me?

Only female mosquitoes bite, though all mosquitoes live on the sugar found in plant nectar, not on blood. Female mosquitoes bite to obtain necessary proteins from blood so they can produce eggs. Proteins in human blood are necessary for the female mosquito to produce fertile eggs. Since males cannot produce eggs they have no need for blood. Females require a new blood "meal" for every nest they lay, and produce about 250 eggs per meal.



Spaced out?

A higher percentage of Rh-negative people claim to have been abducted by aliens than that of Rh-positive people.

How has blood been used?

Blood is such a good stain that Native Americans used it for paint.

