

The Living
BODY

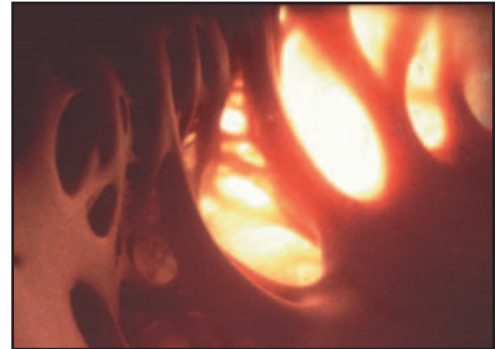
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Landscapes and Interiors

Summary

This introductory program to the *Living Body* series offers a broad overview of the anatomy and physiology of the human body to stimulate interest in the remarkable physiological feats of which the body is capable.



The program takes segments from subsequent programs, in which individual systems are examined separately and in greater depth. Included here are segments on the skin, the five senses, the digestive tract, the circulatory system, the nervous system, and reproduction. The scenes highlight the particular features that make this series an exciting and unique introduction to the study of human biology—the use of real-life situations that are intriguing in their own right, interior photography, laboratory models, animation, and computer-generated imagery to illustrate the body's structures and processes.

The camera first follows the familiar curves of the body's exterior surface, and then tunnels inward to explore internal passageways and organs: from the bronchial tubes to the lungs, from the mouth to the intestinal tract. The journey through the digestive tract follows the pulsing activity of the intestinal walls as food is crushed and dissolved to release the components needed by the body for energy. As the camera penetrates the heart's interior, it shows the rhythmic contractions and the regular opening and closing of a valve. The viewer is also transported inside the womb, where a developing fetus is examined and special attention is called to the physical definition of its head, hands, and feet.

Microphotography also offers glimpses of the living body at the microscopic level. This hidden world is seen to be populated by millions of cells, each one following the program written in its chromosomes. The camera shows red blood cells coursing through minute blood vessels; examines the crystalline structure of hormones; and watches sperm swimming toward an ovum.

The program also shows people seeking new and diverse ways to use their bodies, stretching them to the limit. The remarkable adaptability of the human body is demonstrated by its survival in the earth's more extreme environments—from Arctic cold to desert heat. Humans' ability to meet the many challenges of life is shown to be due in large measure to the superbly efficient design of the human body.

Objectives

1. To arouse interest in how the human body works.
2. To introduce the basic physiological systems and anatomy of the human body and explain in introductory terms how the systems function.
3. To illustrate the physiological basis for human activities and survival.

Recall Questions

1. Why does the body work best in temperate climates?
2. Why is eating pleasurable?
3. How is oxygen transported to cells in all parts of the body?
4. What are the roles of hearing and vision in human survival?

Interpretive Questions

1. People continually find new ways to use their bodies. Think of activities common today that were unknown 100 years ago; in the Egypt of the pharaohs.
2. Name some specific ways in which people have adapted to life in earth's more extreme environments. What responses of the body enable human survival in these extremes?

Vocabulary Required for Effective Viewing

- adaptability
- cell
- chromosome
- detectors
- environment
- hormone
- molecule
- reproduce



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PO Box 2053 • Princeton, NJ 08543-2053
800-257-5126 • Fax 609-671-0266