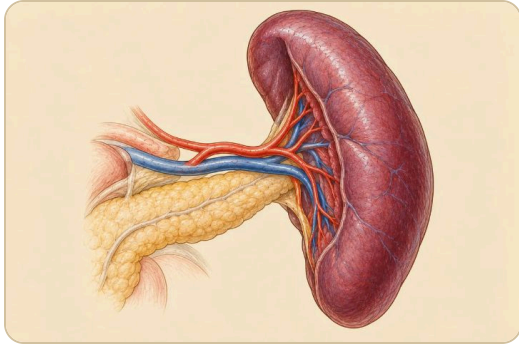


Name: _____

Date: _____

What does the spleen do?

**READ**

The spleen is an organ on the left side of the belly, behind the ribs. It works like a filter for the blood (just a comparison): it removes old cells and helps catch germs, as part of the body's defenses.

1 Which part is it? Use the words in the box.

Pancreas

Stomach

Splenic vessels

1. The tubes that take blood to the spleen to be cleaned and then bring it back. _____
2. The pouch that receives food. It is see-through to show the organs behind it. _____
3. It sits behind the stomach. It makes a juice that helps digestion and insulin, which controls sugar in the blood. _____

2 Match each part to what it does. Write the letter.

- ☐ 1. Spleen
- ☐ 2. Kidney
- ☐ 3. Large intestine
- ☐ 4. Ribs

- A.** Protecting the spleen
- B.** Filtering blood and making urine
- C.** Filtering blood and defending the body
- D.** Absorbing water and forming stool

3 Is this the right answer? Write T or F.

- ☐ 1. **Can you live without a spleen?** Yes. The liver and other organs take over part of its work.
- ☐ 2. **Why do we get a side stitch when running?** This stitch is very common and goes away on its own.
- ☐ 3. **Where is the spleen?** Yes, mainly after hard blows to the belly or left ribs, as in accidents.
- ☐ 4. **Can the spleen rupture?** On the upper left side of the belly, behind the lower ribs and against the stomach.



Spin it in 3D and read more
anatomytour.com/en/spleen

Answer key: What does the spleen do?

1 Which part is it?

1. Splenic vessels
2. Stomach
3. Pancreas

2 Match each part to what it does.

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. A

3 Is this the right answer?

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. F

