

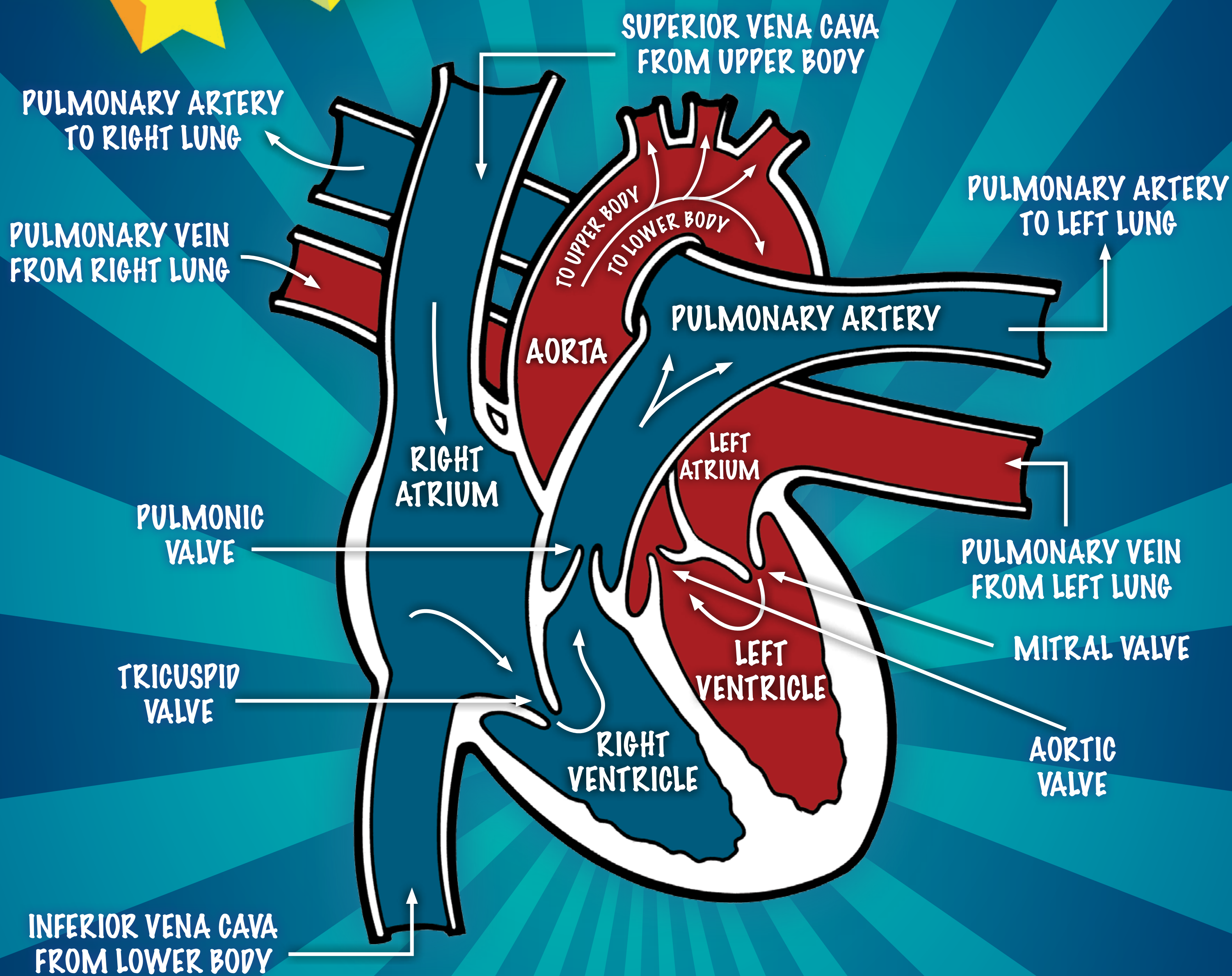
YOUR HEART

American Heart Association
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The heart pumps blood to all parts of the body, but the heart muscle itself needs blood to get food and oxygen. Big blood vessels called coronary arteries supply this blood. Sometimes fatty buildups called plaque can narrow these arteries. The plaque can split open, causing a blood clot to form and block blood flow. A clot in the bloodstream can also plug the narrowed artery, stopping blood flow. If either thing happens, the heart muscle can't get the oxygen and nutrients it needs and starts to die. This is a heart attack.

