

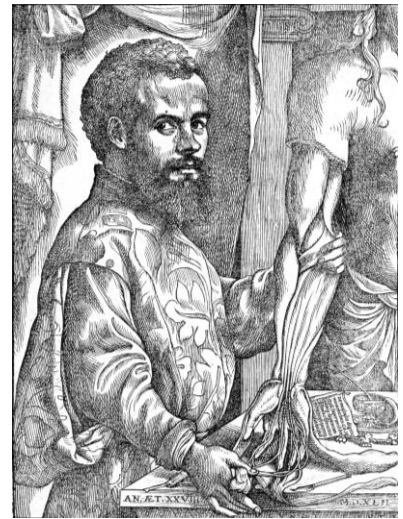


Inspired by Vesalius
**Make your own anatomical
manikin**

Royal College of Physicians
Library, archive and museum services team

<http://history.rcplondon.ac.uk>

Introduction



Andreas Vesalius

This kit makes an anatomical manikin, or ‘flap anatomy’, a layered representation of the human body and its contents.

It is based on the work of the anatomist Andreas Vesalius (1514–1564).

In 1543 Vesalius published the findings of his research at the University of Padua, Italy, where he dissected many human bodies. The book *De humani corporis fabrica* (‘On the fabric of the human body’) is famed for the beauty, detail and accuracy of its woodcut illustrations.

Vesalius made two editions of the book: a 600-page full version, and a 30-page summary known as the *Epitome*. The make-it-yourself flap diagrams of the female and male body in this kit are adapted from the *Epitome*.

Vesalius included extensive instructions on how to assemble the figures, all written in highly technical Latin. This RCP model is slightly simplified. The colours added to our version are not historically accurate, and are used only to aid in distinguishing the different organs.

[See *De humani corporis fabrica* online.](#)

Materials

Paper, plain on at least one side

A printer (if you don't have one, you can try copying the templates out by hand)

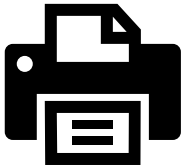
Colouring pencils or pens (optional)

Scissors

Glue

Craft knife and cutting mat (optional)

Preparation



Print one or both of the template pages at the end of the instructions.

If you can print on A3 paper, it will be less fiddly. But A4 is OK.

If you don't have a printer and you're feeling ambitious and/or imaginative, you could try copying the diagrams freehand.



Colour in the diagrams (optional).

The colours used here are just to help show which bit is which. You can use your own colours, or no colours at all.



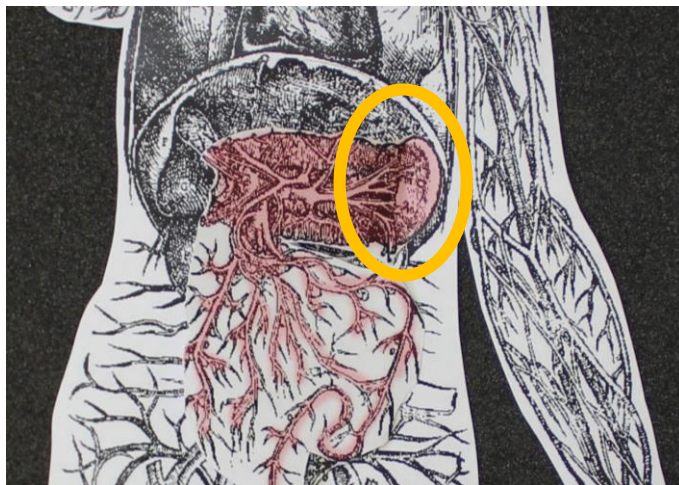
Carefully cut out all the pieces as accurately as you can.

1: the spleen



Turn the spleen piece over so that the printed side is downwards.

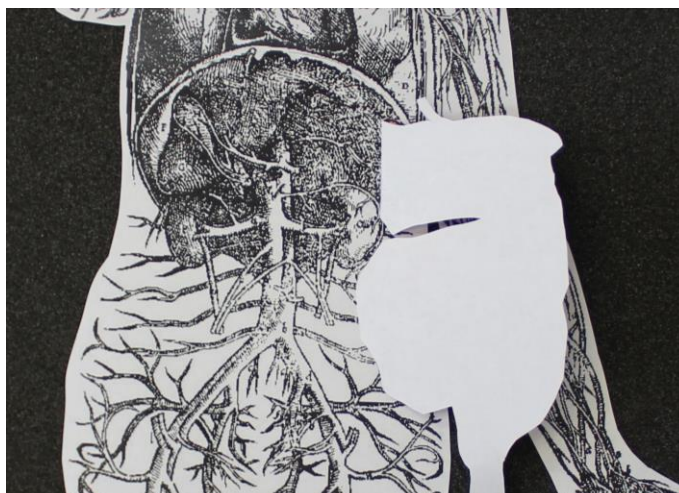
Put glue on the top left corner, where shown.



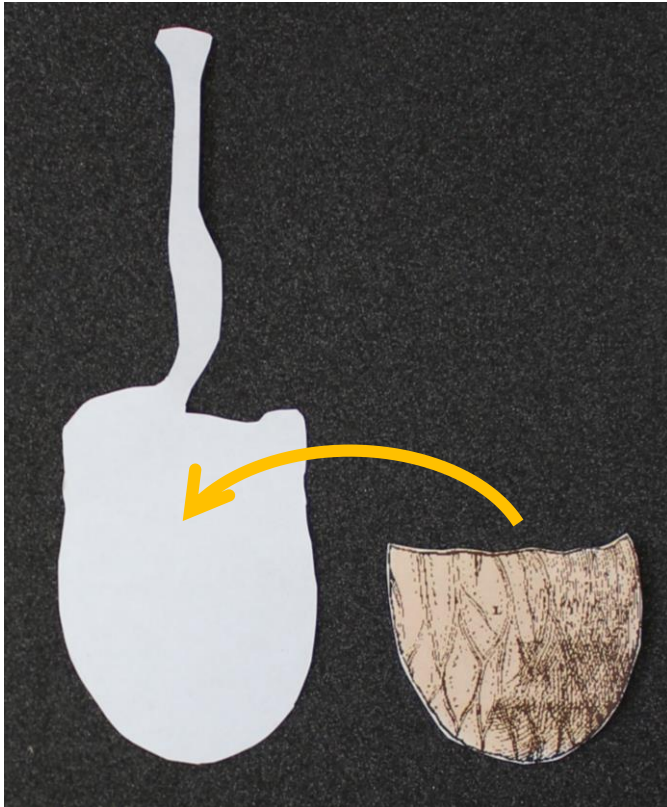
Turn the spleen piece back over.

Stick it to the body as shown.

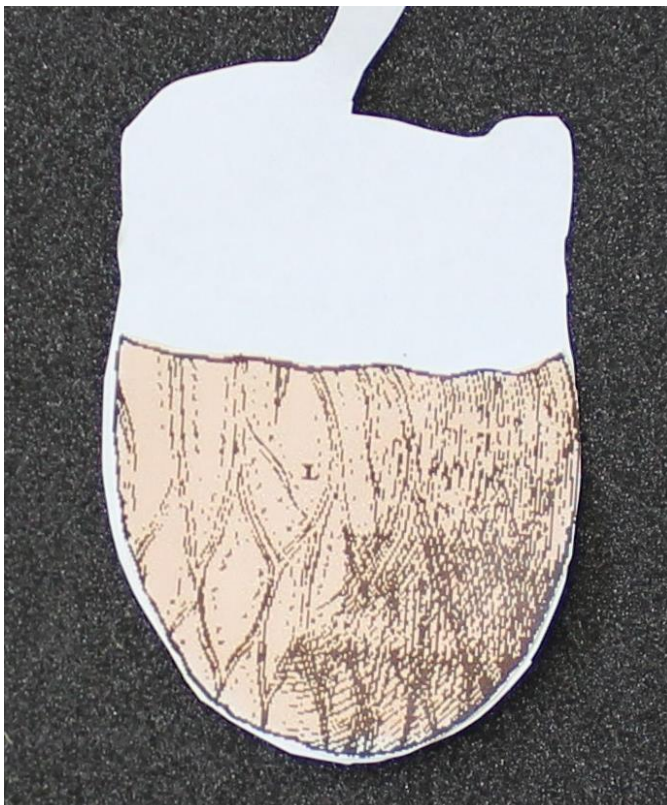
Fold it back and make a crease, so that you can lift the piece to see what's underneath.



2: stomach and omentum

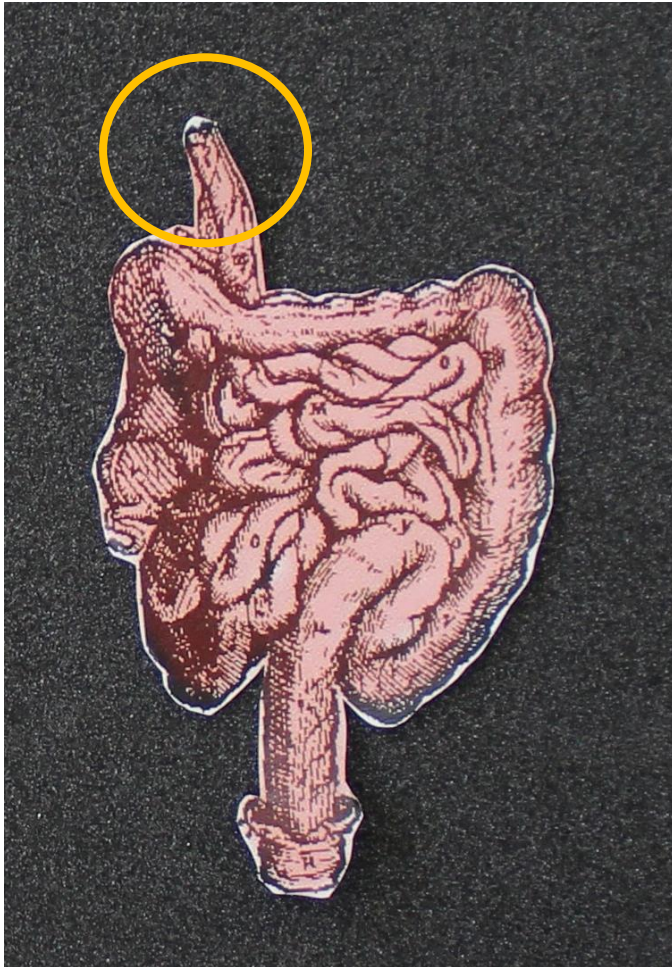


Take the oesophagus, stomach and omentum piece and turn it over.



Glue all of the back of the lesser omentum piece, and stick it to the back of the stomach piece as shown.

3: intestines



Take the oesophagus, stomach and omentum piece and keep it face down.

Take the intestines piece.

Glue it on the front at the very top, where shown.

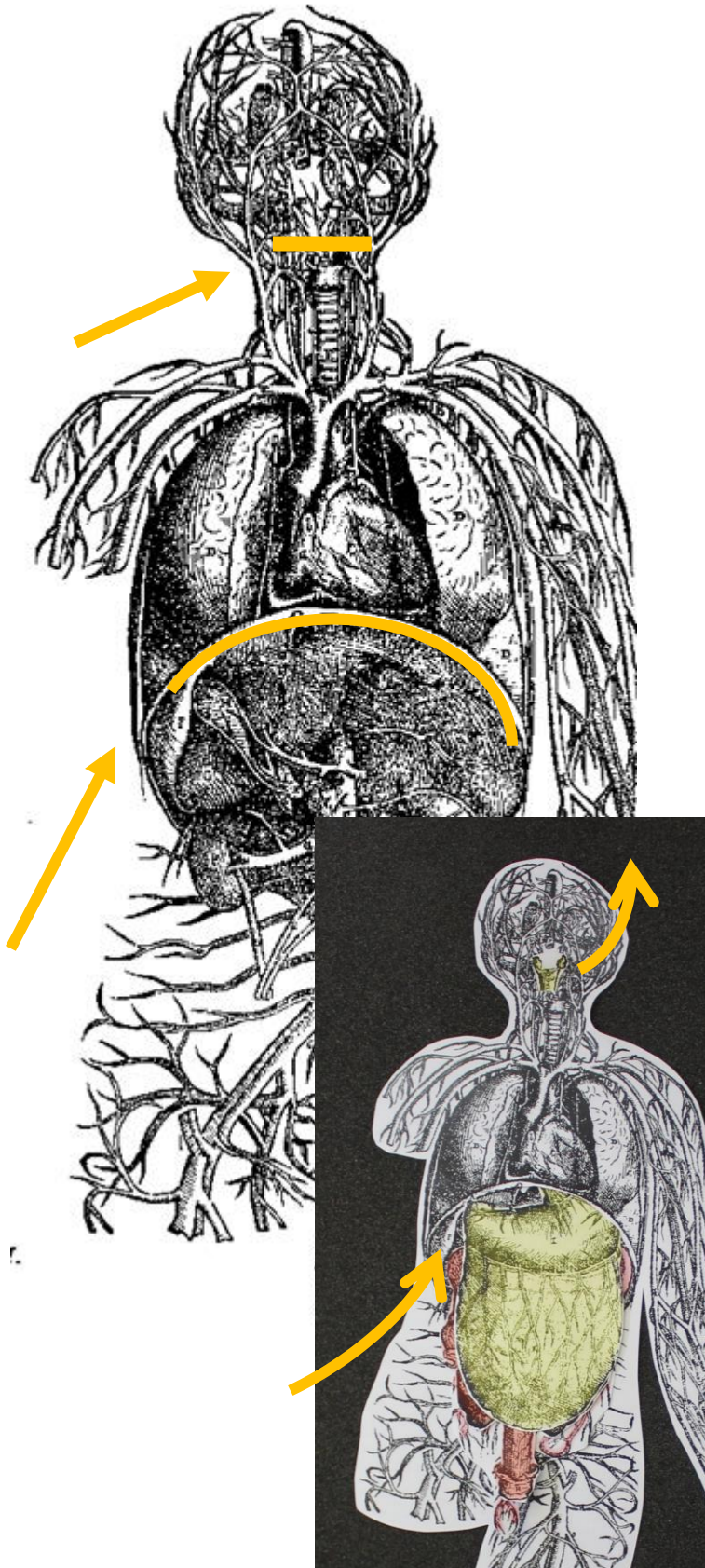
Turn this piece over.

Stick it to the top of the stomach, where shown.

Fold and crease it so you can lift it up.



4: oesophagus



Take the main body piece.

Make two slits across it with the craft knife or scissors as shown.

Be careful!

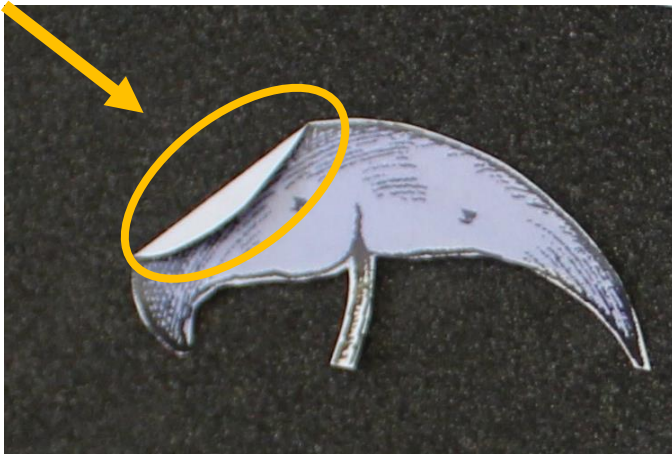
Now take the stomach piece with the additional pieces glued onto it.

Hold it in front of the body piece.

Feed the top of the oesophagus down through the lower slit.

Feed it up through the upper slit.

5: liver



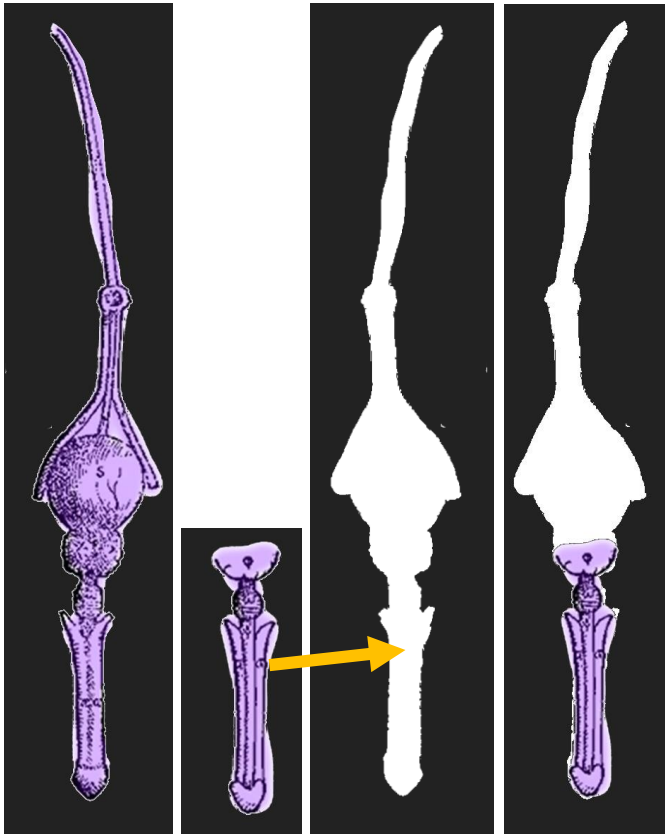
Take the liver piece.

Fold over the top left edge as shown, Carefully glue just this flap.

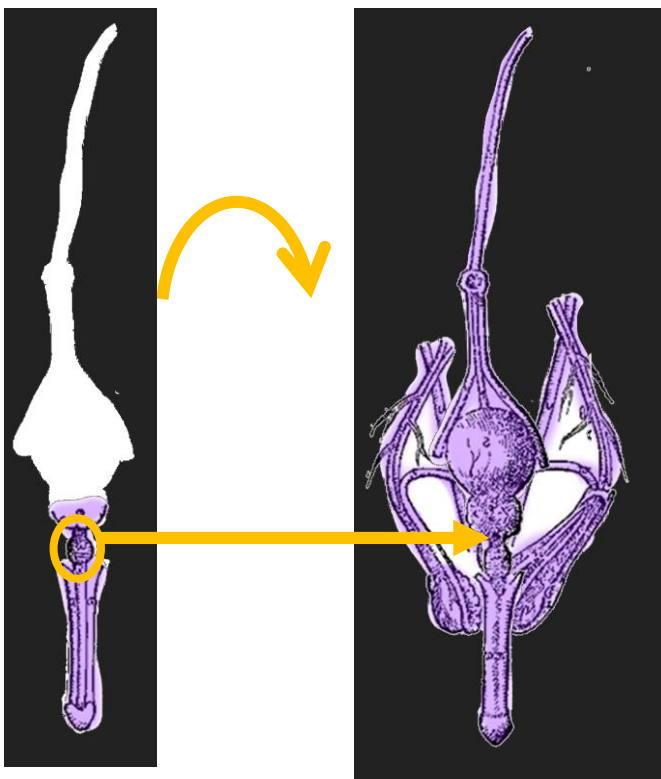


Stick it in place on the main body piece.

6a: reproductive system and bladder (MALE BODY ONLY)



Take the two part of the penis (front and back) and stick them together.

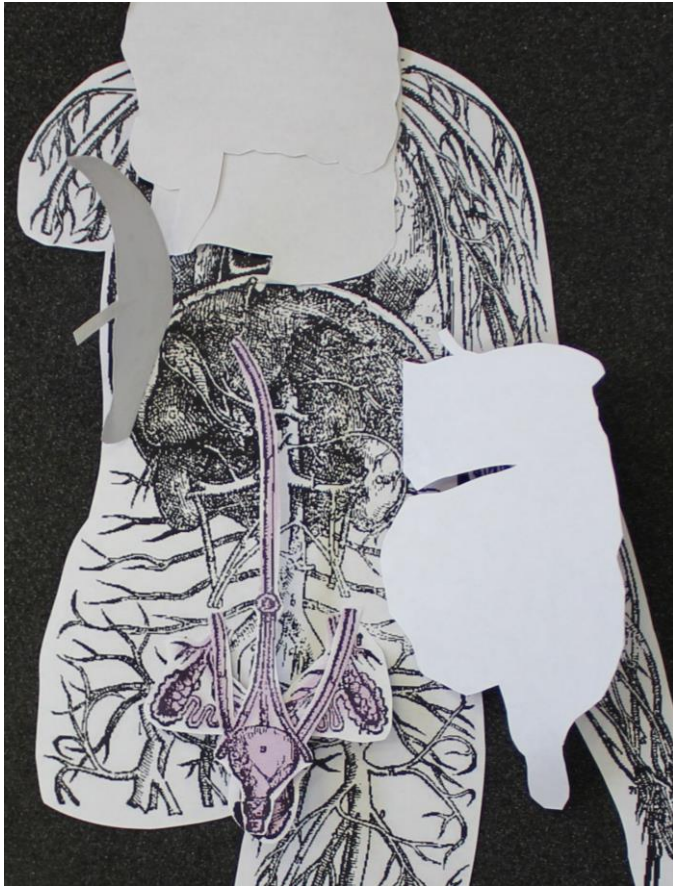


Put a small dab of glue behind the prostate.

Turn the penis and bladder piece over.

Stick this onto the middle of the testes piece as shown.

6b: reproductive system and bladder (BOTH BODIES)



Take the main body piece, and fold the other organs out of the way.

Turn over the bladder and reproductive organs pieces.



MALE BODY



FEMALE BODY

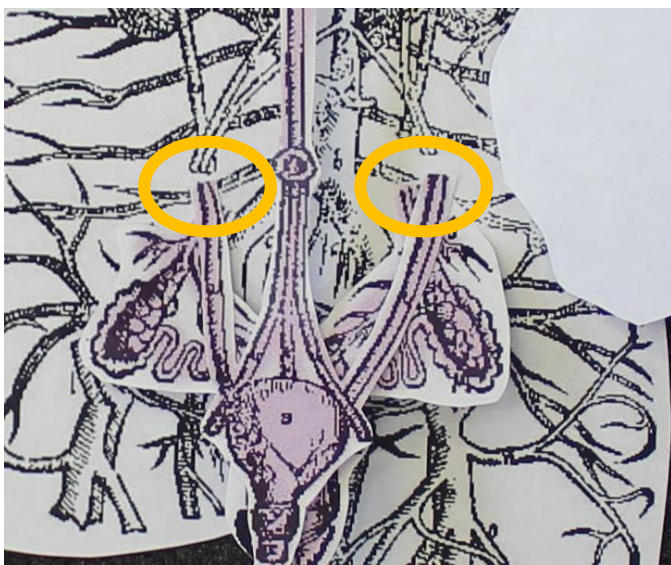
Put a dot of glue on the end of each of the pair or pairs of vessels at the top.



6b: continued



FEMALE BODY ONLY

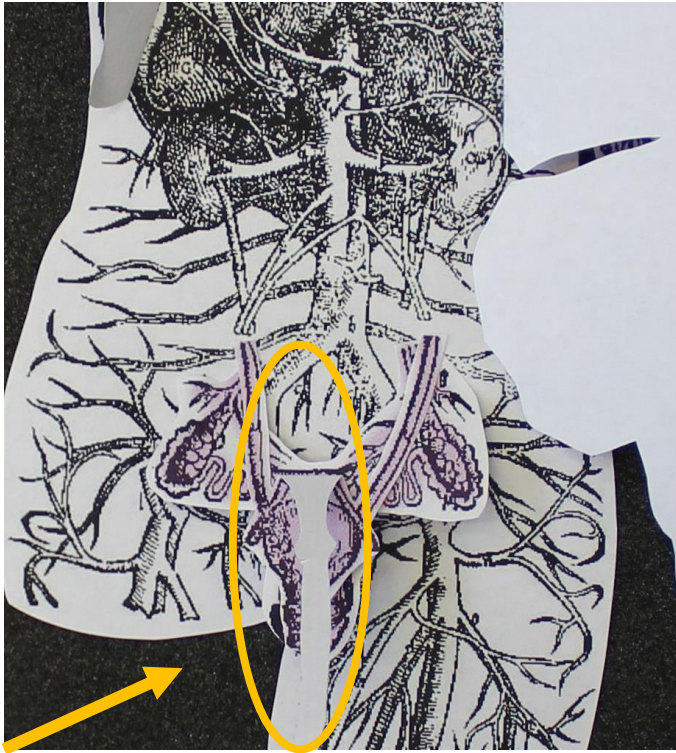


BOTH BODIES

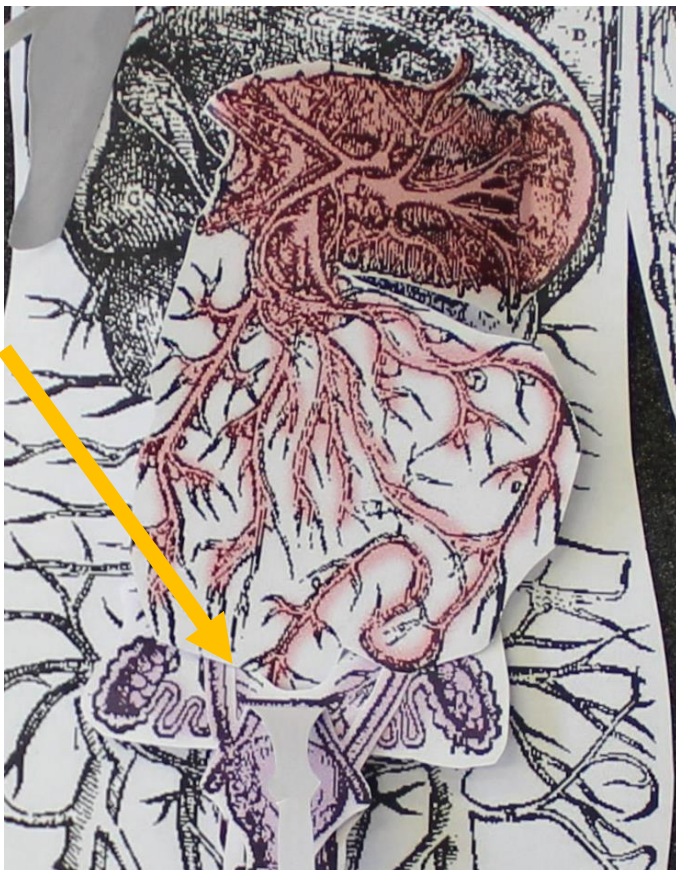
Stick down these vessels at the matching places on the main body sheet.

This is quite fiddly.
If all else fails, make sure the piece is central and that the bladder is in about the right place.

7: arrange the internal organs



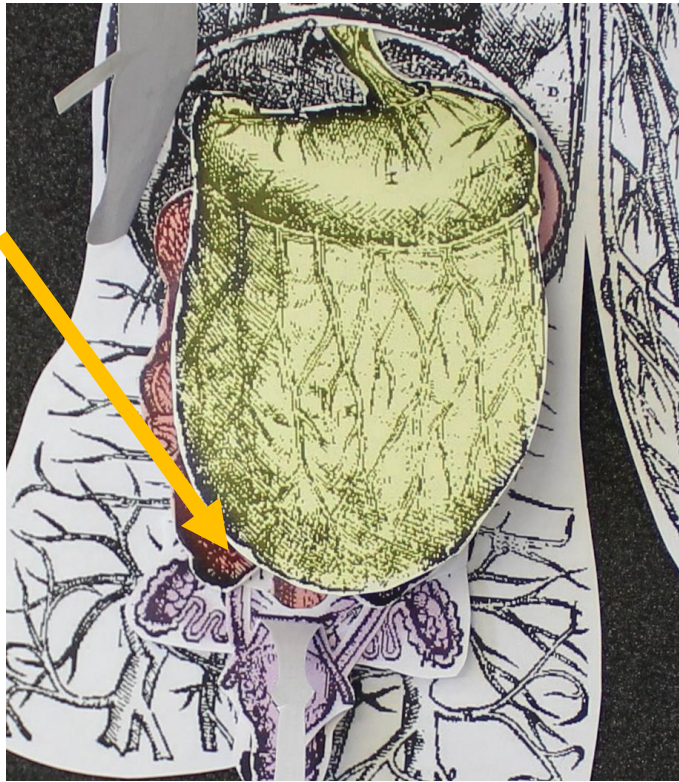
Fold the sinew at the top of the bladder out of the way for now.



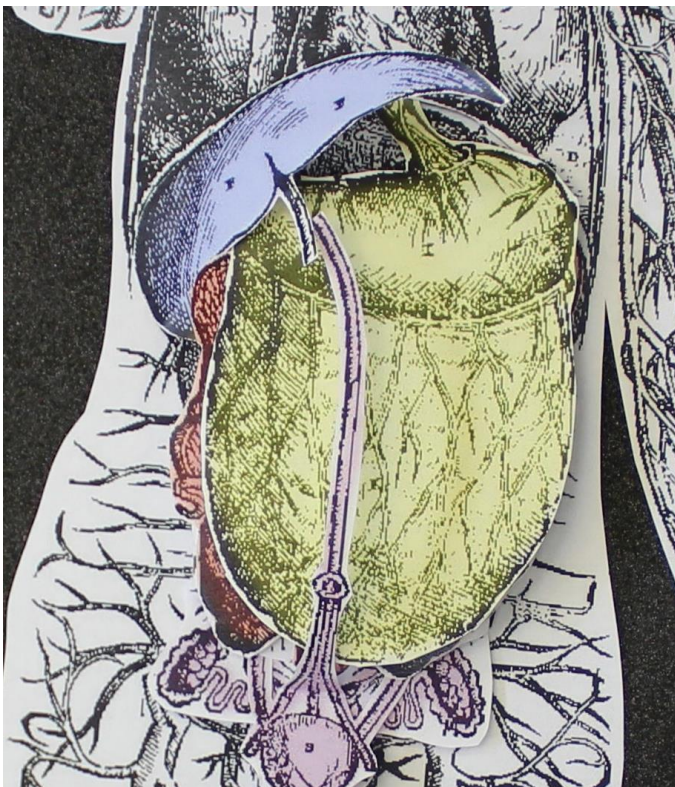
Fold the spleen piece back over the body.

Tuck the end of the intestinal blood vessels down behind the reproductive system.

7: continued

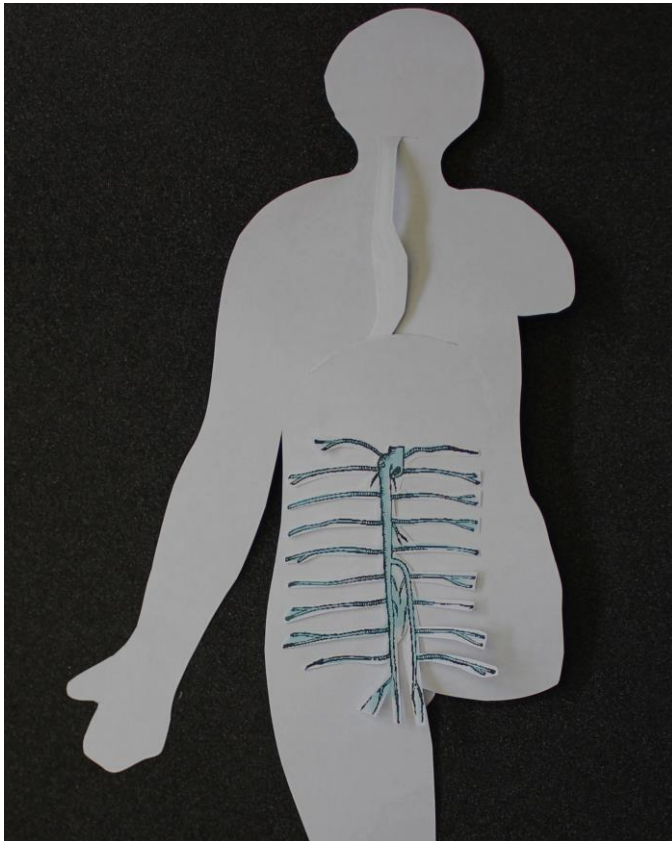


Tuck the end of the colon down behind the reproductive system.



Fold the liver and long sinew down over the top.

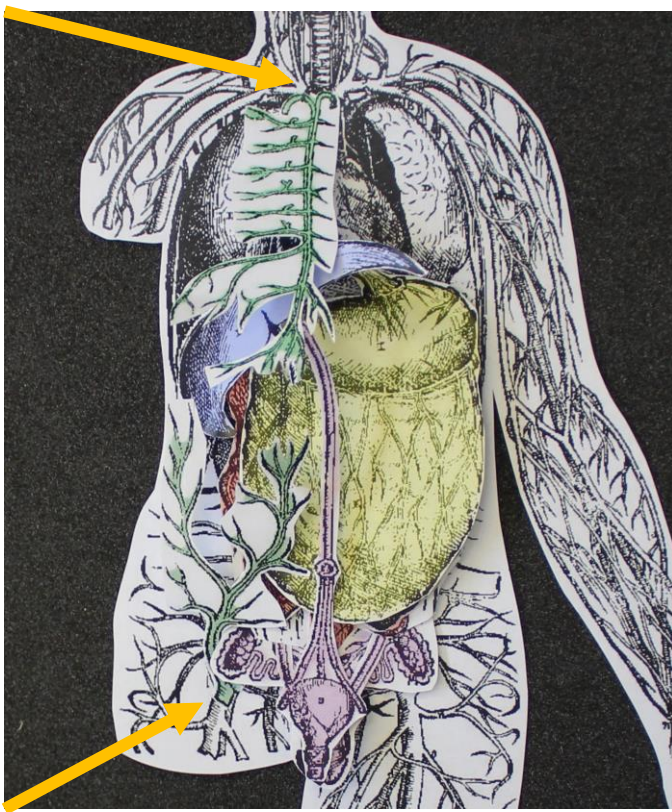
8: blood vessels



Attach the three sets of blood vessels as shown.

Glue just one end of each piece.

One goes on the back of the figure.



The other two form the top layer of the front.

9: finished!



Hopefully your
model looks
something like this.

10: share your results

If you enjoyed making the model, share your results with your friends and family and with us online.

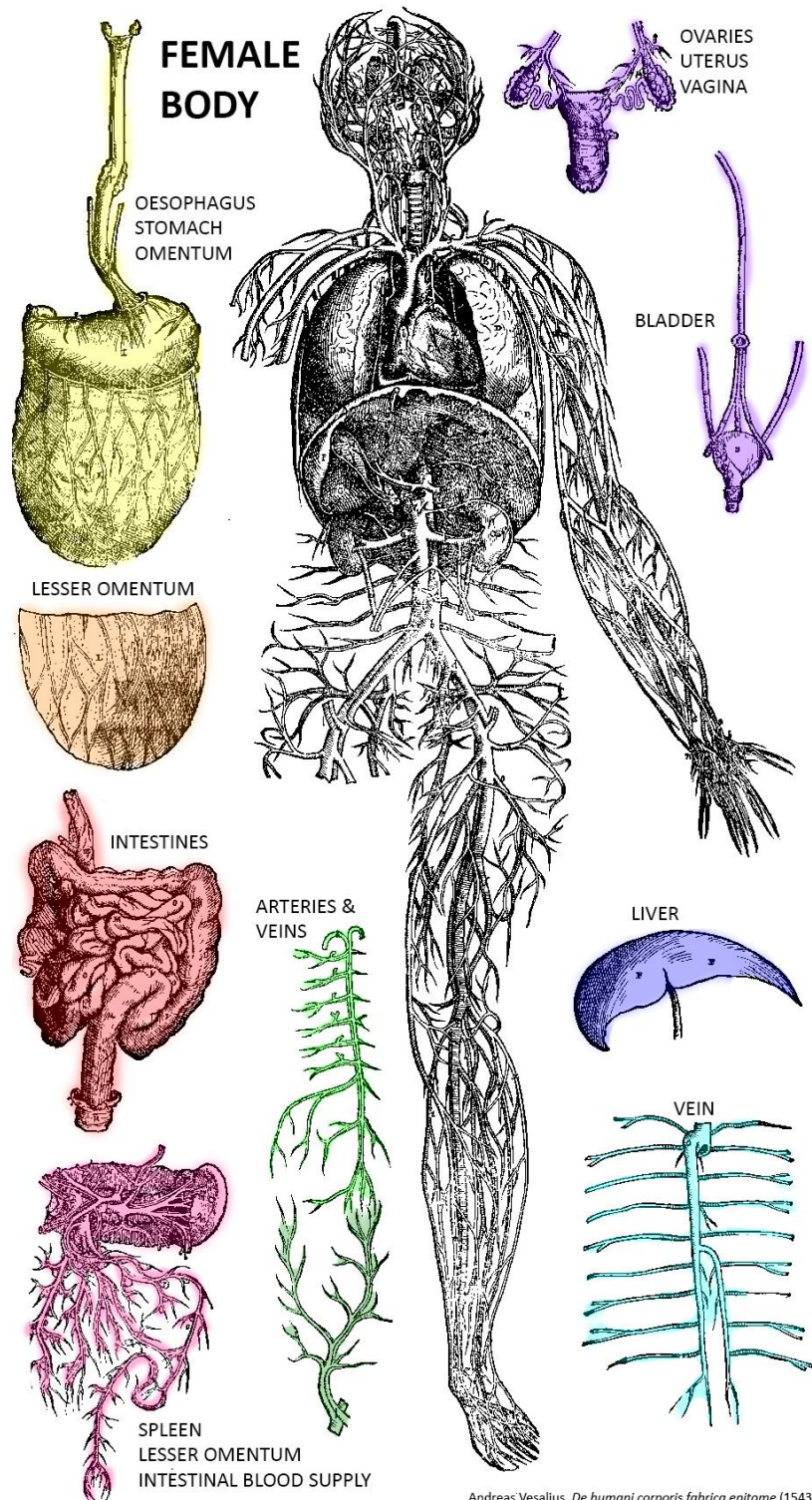
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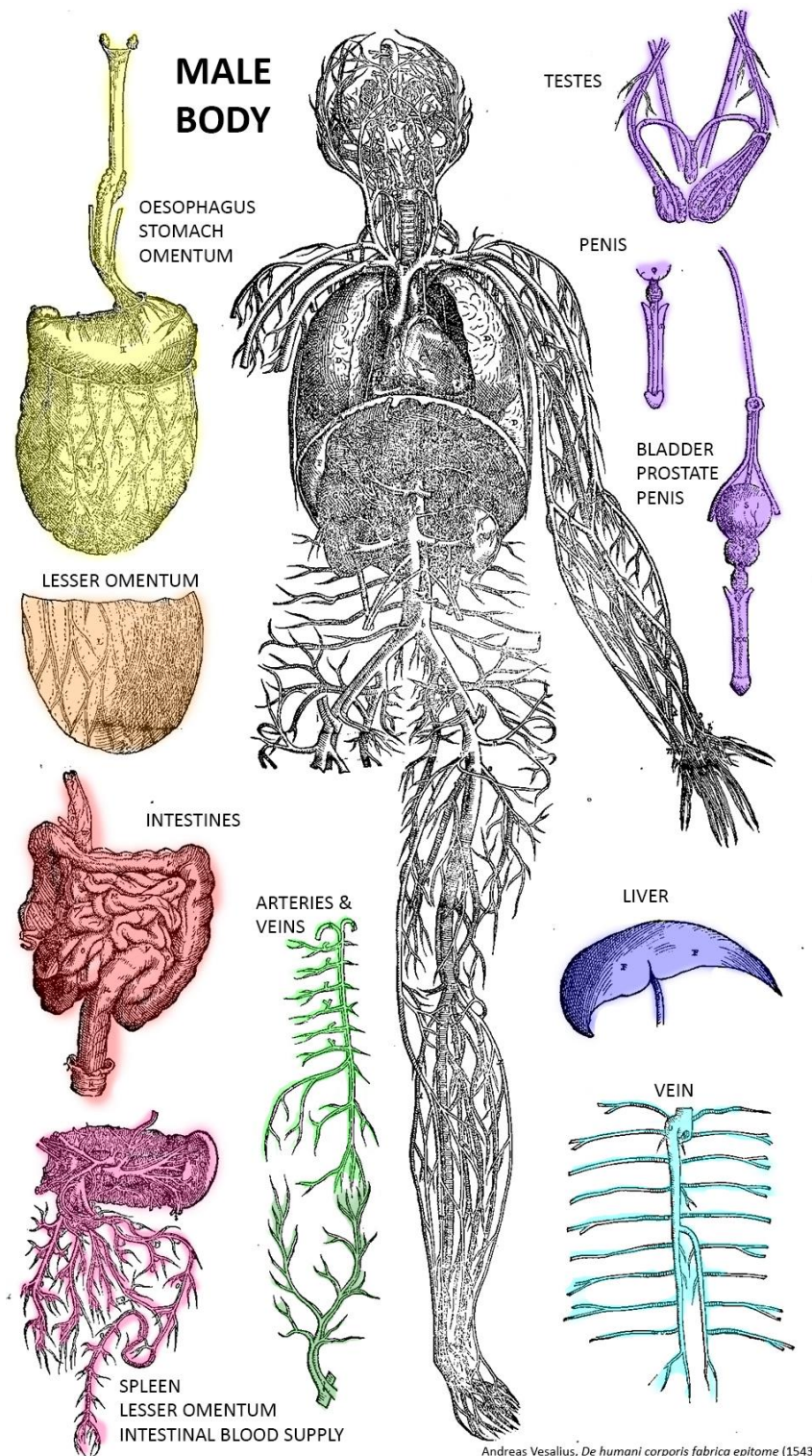


Key: what's what on the model



Disclaimer: this model is based on diagrams in a 450-year-old book and is not an accurate representation of human anatomy as it is understood today.

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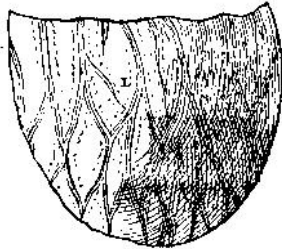
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FEMALE BODY

SECUNDA.



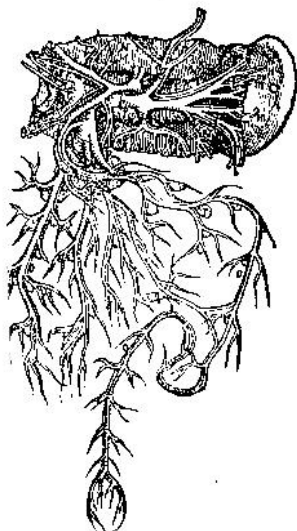
TERTIA.



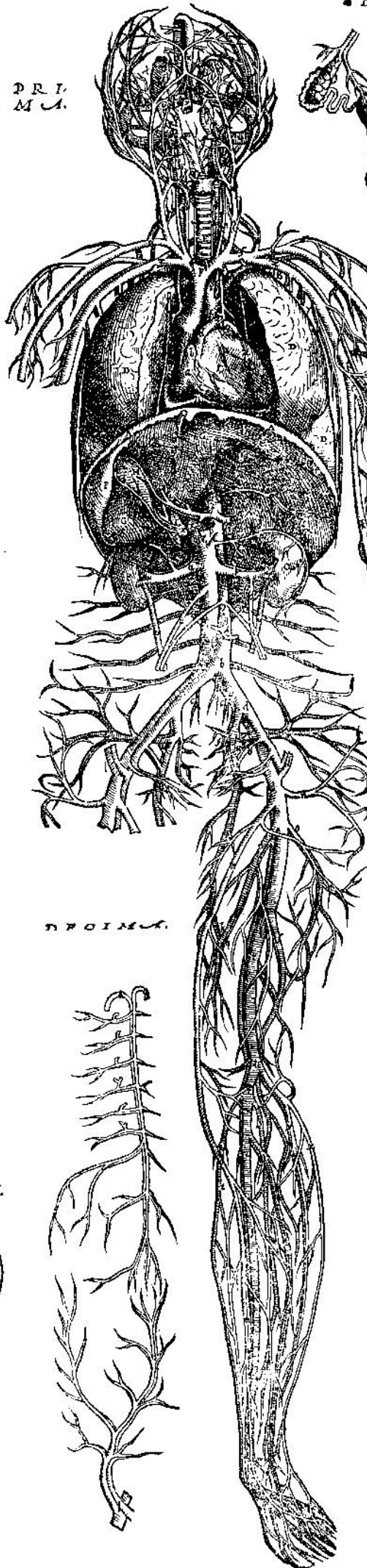
QUARTA.



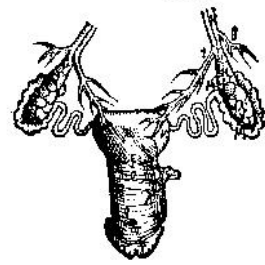
QUINTA.



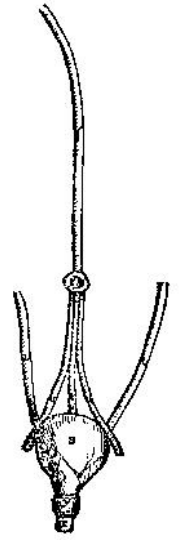
PRIMA.



SEXTA.



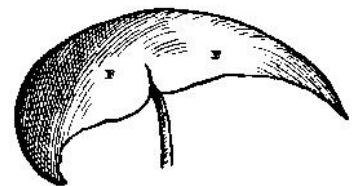
SEPTIMA.



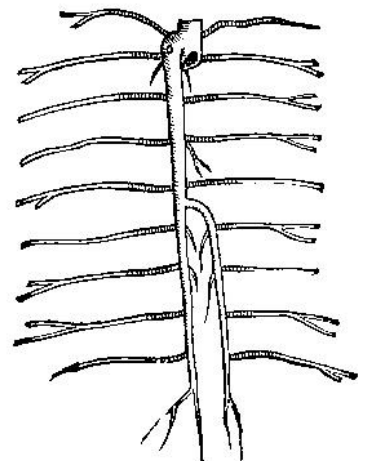
SEPTIMA.



OCTAVA.



NONA.



MALE BODY

