

THE ANATOMY OF THE HUMAN BODY



THE
RESPIRATORY
SYSTEM

The respiratory system is responsible for the exchange of gases between the body and the environment. It consists of the trachea, bronchi, bronchioles, and alveoli. The trachea is the main airway, and the bronchi branch off to lead to the lungs. The bronchioles further divide into smaller airways that lead to the alveoli, where the actual gas exchange occurs. The alveoli are tiny sacs that are surrounded by a network of capillaries. Oxygen from the air enters the alveoli and then diffuses into the capillaries, while carbon dioxide from the capillaries diffuses into the alveoli to be exhaled.