

# The Systems Map

## Global Models of Organ & Tissue Donation

This resource provides a clear, simplified comparison of the two major global consent systems.

It is written for Year 8 students (ages 13–14) with easy language, clean structure, and neutral, accurate descriptions.






### THE SYSTEMS MAP

How the world decides on organ and tissue donation – Use this content on a world map graphic OR as a standalone comparison chart.

### OPT-IN SYSTEMS (Explicit Consent)

“You are a donor only if you choose to register.”

#### Examples of Opt-In Countries:

- Australia 
- United States 
- United Kingdom (England was Opt-Out from 2020, but Wales/Scotland differ – teacher note if needed)
- Canada (varies by province)
- Germany 
- Japan 
- South Africa 

#### How it works:

- A person must actively sign up to be a donor.
- Registration is a clear expression of their wishes.
- Families are still consulted at the time of death.

#### Strengths:

- Prioritises autonomy and clear individual choice.
- People feel confident that their decision is respected.

#### Challenges:

- Low registration rates create a donor shortage.
- Families often don't know the person's wishes → lower consent rate (40%).



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## OPT-OUT SYSTEMS (Presumed Consent)

“Everyone is a potential donor unless they say no.”

### Examples of Opt-Out Countries:

- Spain 🇪🇸 (World leader in donation)
- France 🇫🇷
- Belgium 🇧🇪
- Austria 🇦🇹
- Netherlands 🇳🇱
- Portugal 🇵🇹
- Belgium 🇧🇪
- Norway 🇳🇴
- Wales / Scotland (within UK)

### How it works:

- All adults are considered donors unless they register to opt-out.
- Families may still be asked, depending on the country.

### Strengths:

- Creates higher availability of donors.
- Families often feel less pressure because a default exists.
- Some countries see consent rates above 80%.

### Challenges:

- Can feel less personal if not well explained.
- Requires strong public understanding to maintain trust.



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## WHY SYSTEMS DIFFER

### Countries choose different models based on:

- Cultural beliefs
- Trust in institutions
- Public attitudes
- Legal history
- How families make decisions
- Healthcare capacity

Both systems can work well with clear communication and strong family conversations.

## STUDENT-FRIENDLY SUMMARY BOX

Opt-In = “You choose to join.”

Opt-Out = “You choose to leave.”

But in both models, families are still involved – which is why talking remains the most powerful factor.

## TEACHER VERSION OF THE SYSTEMS MAP (Text for Poster)

### Title:

 How the World Approaches Donation: Opt-In vs Opt-Out

### Left Column: OPT-IN

Countries: Australia, USA, Germany, Japan, Canada\*

Meaning: You are a donor only if you register.

Key Fact: Family consent rate is 40% when wishes are unknown.

### Right Column: OPT-OUT

Countries: Spain, France, Belgium, Portugal, Netherlands

Meaning: You are a donor unless you opt out.

Key Fact: Family consent rate is often 80%+.

### Shared Note:

No matter the system, families still make the final decision in many countries

