

The Domino Effect of Kindness

(Year 6 - Ages 11-12):

Lesson 1 of 9

Teacher Preparation

Introduction for Teachers

This lesson is designed to be the "wow" moment for the Year 6 unit. The students have already learned the basics of altruism (Year 4: "Heroes") and the scientific difference between organs and tissues (Year 5: "Investigators").

The Year 6 objective is to transition from individual kindness to community impact. The "Domino Effect of Kindness" metaphor visualises the colossal, positive ripple effect a single donation decision creates. This elevates the topic from a simple act of helping to an extraordinary act of citizenship and legacy.

The core data point is crucial: One organ donor can save up to seven lives and help many more through tissue donation. Use this fact to frame the entire lesson around the magnitude and magic of the gift.

Safety and Sensitivity Considerations

- Positive Framing is Essential: Maintain the tone of wonder, respect, and empowerment. Focus on the positive outcome (the recipient thriving and the donor's generous legacy).
- USE: The Gift of Life, life-saving choice, generous legacy, community contributor, helps many families, sight-restoring, mobility-enhancing.
- AVOID: Death, dying, taking organs, harvesting, being dead on a machine. If a student asks, answer truthfully but gently, keeping the focus on the family's heroic choice at a difficult time.
- Managing Personal Questions: Year 6 students may have more developed questions about the process or personal experiences. If a student asks a highly specific medical question, acknowledge their curiosity and suggest they research that part with a trusted adult or doctor, and then steer the class back to the lesson's core theme of impact.
- Acknowledge, Don't Dwell: Acknowledge that the gift comes from a sad time ("when a person passes away") but immediately pivot to the positive, heroic choice and the help it provides.

Teacher Resources

- Whiteboard or smartboard.
- Resource: The "Kindness Dominoes" Template (Large printouts of 1 'Donor' tile and 7-10 'Recipient' tiles for the visual demonstration).
- Markers and high-visibility coloured pens.
- Student Worksheet: "The Ripple Effect Reporter."
- Optional: A set of real dominoes for a physical demonstration of a ripple effect.
- Teacher Resource: Key Statistics about Organ and Tissue Donation in Australia (Focus: 1 donor = up to 7 lives saved).

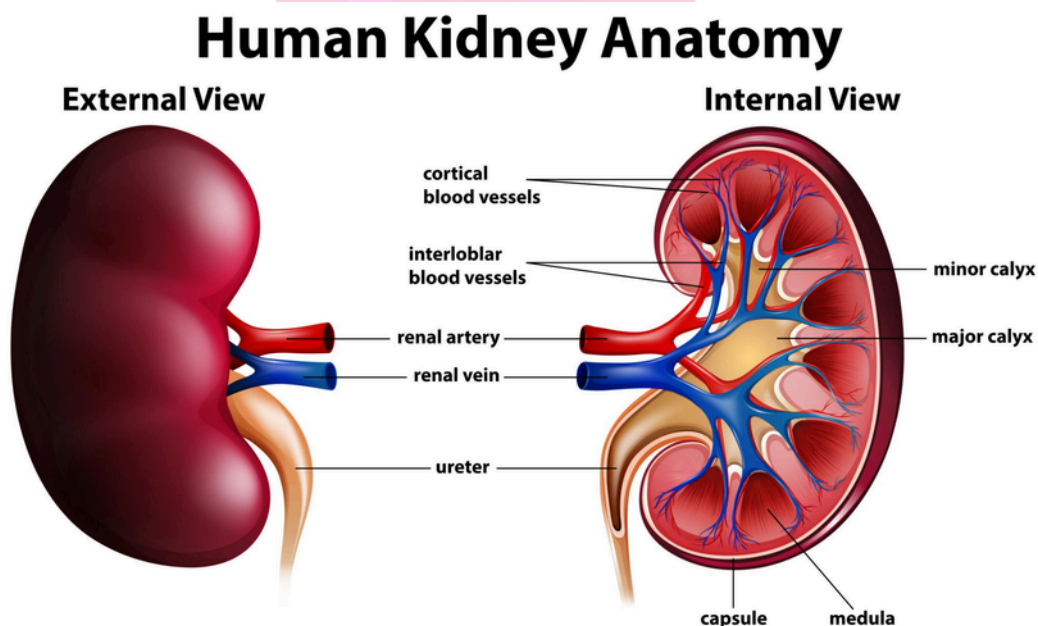


Key Concepts & Language for Teachers

- Defining Altruism as a Powerful Choice (The 'Why')
 - Reframing Altruism: In Year 6, altruism is framed as a powerful, conscious decision to benefit the wider community without expecting a reward.
 - Say: "We've talked about altruism as having a kindness blueprint. Now, we see it as a Life-Changing Choice. This choice—to donate—is one of the most powerful ways a person can leave a positive mark on the world, even after they've passed away."
 - Link to Citizenship (HASS): Connect this choice to civic responsibility. "This is an act of amazing active citizenship. It's contributing to the health and well-being of our Australian community in the most direct way possible."
- The Domino Effect Metaphor (The 'How Many')
 - Visual Hook: Use the dominoes demonstration (or the visual cards) to launch this concept.
 - Say: "When we push one domino, it creates a chain reaction. The 'Donor Domino' is one person making the kind choice. That one choice doesn't just knock over one domino, it knocks over up to seven life-saving dominoes—one for a heart, one for lungs, two for kidneys, and so on. That is the incredible, measurable power of this gift!"
 - Expanding the Ripple: Emphasise that the effect doesn't stop with the seven saved lives.
 - Say: "The ripple keeps going. Every person who receives an organ is given back their life, meaning they can go back to being a daughter, a father, a best friend, or a teacher. That single gift helps seven families heal, reduces the waitlist for others, and creates a legacy of kindness that lasts forever."

Magical Body Facts for Year 6 (Ages 11-12)

- The Super-Filter System: If your kidneys stopped working, you would have to spend hours every week hooked up to a dialysis machine. Your own two kidneys filter all your blood up to 60 times a day!



- **The Longest Road:** If you stretched out all the blood vessels in your body, they would measure over 96,000 kilometres. That's enough to wrap around the Earth more than two times!



- **Bone Strength:** Your bone tissue is so densely packed that a piece of bone the size of a matchbox can support the weight of almost 9 tonnes, roughly the weight of two large African elephants!
- **The Fastest Organ:** Your cornea (the transparent front part of your eye, a tissue often donated) is the fastest-healing part of the human body. A small scratch can be repaired in as little as 24 hours.
- **The Waiting List:** Approximately 1,800 Australians are currently on the waiting list for a transplant.
- **The Rarity of Donation:** Organ donation is incredibly rare. Only about 2% of people who die in a hospital are able to become an organ donor because of the specific medical requirements needed. This is why the choice is so valuable.
- **The Family Conversation:** 8 out of 10 families say yes when the person is registered on the Organ Donor Register. This drops to only 4 out of 10 when they don't know what their loved one wanted. This reinforces the key lesson: The conversation is the most important part of the gift!

