

# Body Investigators: The Hero's Treasury

(Year 5 - Ages 10-11):

## Lesson 6 of 9

### Teacher Preparation

#### Introduction for Teachers

This lesson is a key step in expanding the students' knowledge, moving from the process (Lesson 5: The Activation Code) to the physicality of the gift. The goal is to provide factual, age-appropriate knowledge about the different types of organs and tissues that can be donated, fulfilling the Year 5/6 requirement to "cover different organ and tissue types." The lesson uses the central metaphor of the "Hero's Treasury" to classify donations into two memorable, positive categories:

1. **Jewels of Life (Organs):** These are the life-saving 'super-machines' (Heart, Lungs, Liver, Kidneys, etc.).
2. **Repair Kits (Tissues):** These are the life-transforming 'materials' (Eyes/Cornea, Bone, Skin, etc.) that restore sight, mobility, and healing.

This classification system allows students to process complex biological information with clarity and empathy, focusing on the powerful outcome of the gift.

### Safety and Sensitivity Considerations

- **Focus on the Gift, Not the Loss:** The primary focus must remain positive, emphasizing the recipient's transformation and the donor's altruism. Use the established language: the donor has "passed away" or is the "Helping Hero."
- **Maintain Wonder:** Frame the medical information as "Magical Body Facts" (see below) and "Treasures." Avoid overly graphic descriptions. The complexity of the biology is best simplified into function and outcome.
- **Tissues vs. Organs:** Reinforce that tissue donation is far more common than organ donation, as organs require very specific, rare conditions (death in a hospital on a ventilator) to be able to be donated. This manages student expectations and avoids confusion.
- **Empathy:** The end of the lesson should focus on the recipient—the child who can now see, or the person who can now walk or breathe easily. This grounds the classification exercise in real-world human impact.

### Teacher Resources

- A large, decorated prop "Hero's Treasury" (a lockable chest or box).
- "Treasure Cards" (laminated cards, one for each major organ/tissue: Heart, Lungs, Liver, Kidney, Cornea, Bone, Skin, Pancreas).
- Two large poster labels: "Jewels of Life (Life-Saving)" and "Repair Kits (Life-Transforming)."
- Student Worksheet: "My Treasure Map and Logbook" (for drawing the journey of one treasure).
- Markers and coloured pencils.
- Anatomical poster or drawing showing the rough location of the major organs and tissues (optional, for reference).



## Key Concepts & Language for Teachers

- The "Hero's Treasury" Metaphor
  - Say: "Investigators, we've found the 'Activation Code,' but what exactly does it unlock? It unlocks the Hero's Treasury—the most incredible collection of gifts a person can ever give. We need to open it up and see what kinds of 'Treasures of Life' are inside."
  - Say: "Every single item in this Treasury is a Treasure of Life—a gift that saves a life or completely transforms a life."
- The Two Types of Treasure (Classification)
  - Jewels of Life (Organs):
    - Say: "The first category we call the Jewels of Life. These are the rare, solid organs—the body's central super-machines, like the Heart, Lungs, and Liver. These are almost always life-saving treasures, giving someone a new chance at life."
    - Examples to cover: Heart (the body's pump), Lungs (the body's air machine), Liver (the body's filter/cleaner), Kidneys (the body's waste disposal).
  - Repair Kits (Tissues):
    - Say: "The second category we call the Repair Kits. These are tissues, like the Cornea (from the eye), Bone, and Skin. While they usually don't save a life, they transform a life. They can give someone the gift of sight, help a child walk again, or help a burn victim heal."
    - Examples to cover: Cornea (the clear 'window' to restore sight), Bone (to restore movement and repair joints), Skin (to help severe burn victims heal).
- The Power of the Treasury
  - Say: "When a Hero makes this incredible gift, their Treasury is HUGE. One hero can potentially save up to seven lives with their Jewels and transform many more lives with their Repair Kits! It's the ultimate act of kindness."

## Magical Body Facts for Year 5 (Ages 10-11)

- These facts can be used during the lesson to introduce the specific "Treasures" as you explore the Treasury.
- The Power of the Cornea (Repair Kit): The Cornea, the clear 'window' at the front of your eye, has no blood vessels! It gets its oxygen directly from the air. That's one reason why cornea transplants are often very successful and can restore sight.
- The Liver's Amazing Trick (Jewel of Life): The Liver can perform over 500 different jobs—from cleaning your blood to helping you digest food. It is also the only organ that can grow back or regenerate itself, even after a large part is removed.
- Bone is a Factory (Repair Kit): Your bones are not just hard scaffolding! The marrow inside your large bones is a living factory that produces over 2 million new red blood cells every second! Donated bone can help repair joints and give mobility back to people.
- The Kidney's Secret Job (Jewel of Life): Your kidneys filter an astonishing 180 liters of blood every single day—that's enough to fill a large bathtub! They are the body's ultimate recycling and cleaning crew.

