

Gas exchange

MEGAN Well, we're here. Look at the view! Breathtaking isn't it?

RHYS Tell me about it.

MEGAN So Rhys, the camping king. Can you give me a hand with these tents?

RHYS Hey Alfred. How do I put up a tent?

ALFRED In order for humans to perform activities, such as tent-making, you must first be breathing properly.

Grab some of that air around you using your mouth and nose and send it down your trachea.

If you've sent the air the right way, you should get to the bronchus. Continue to your smaller bronchioles. At the end of each bronchiole are clusters of air sacs called alveoli.

RHYS Alve-what?

ALFRED Alveoli have a moist lining with thin walls that have a high surface area. They are tightly packed around blood vessels called capillaries. So much so that the capillaries and alveoli share the same membrane walls.

RHYS Why?

ALFRED It makes sending oxygen from the air to your red blood cells a piece of cake! You can then take away the waste carbon dioxide that is carried by your plasma, all thanks to diffusion.

Try this now.

RHYS I... think I'm doing it!

ALFRED Congratulations! Gas exchange successful.

Bitesize

RHYS Thanks for the help Alfred. Now, let's deal with this tent.

MEGAN Night Rhys.