

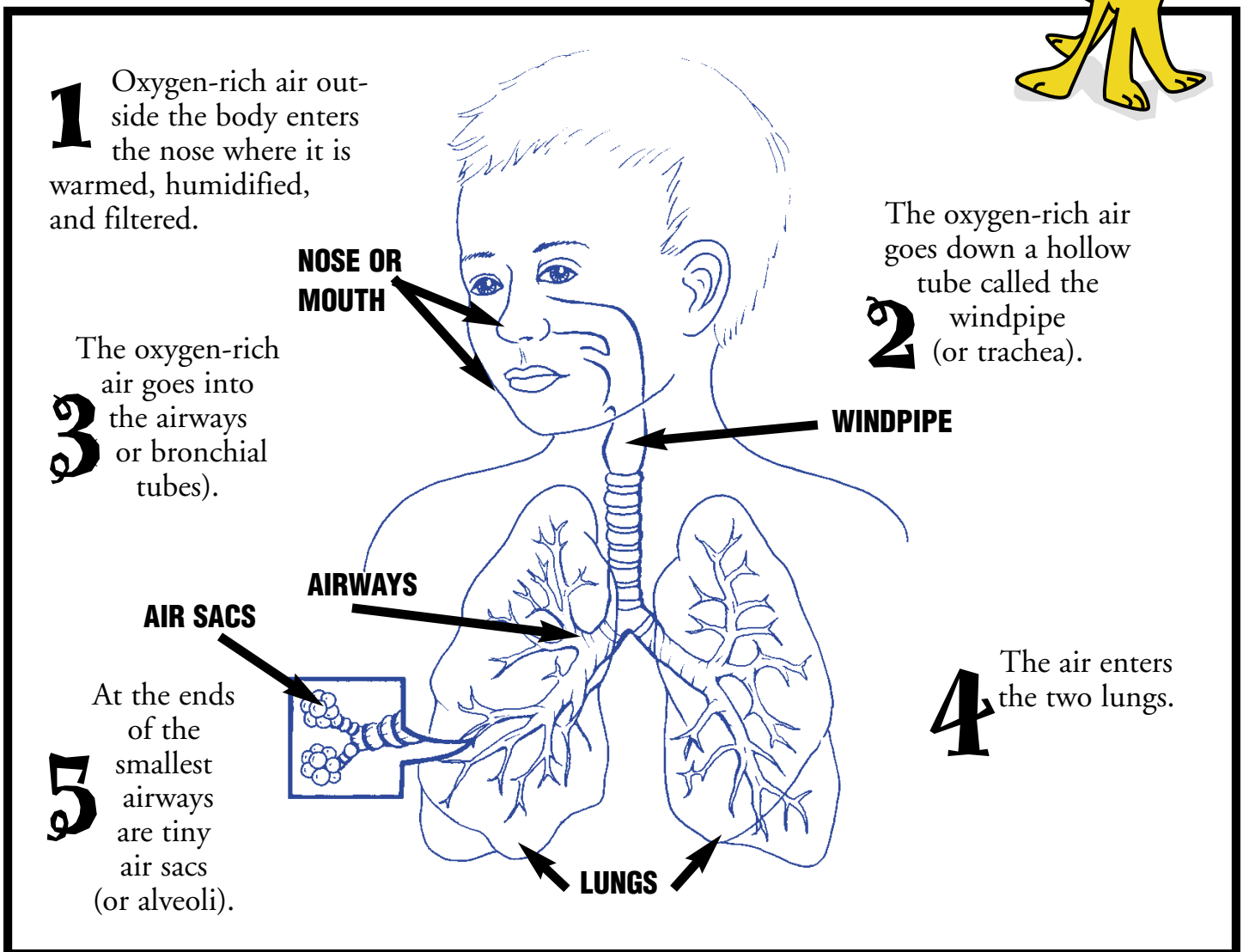
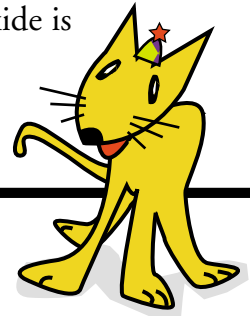
Asthma

is a disease of the airways that affects breathing. Breathing is difficult for a child during an asthma flare up.

Some children will have asthma for many years. Some may have asthma symptoms their whole life. There is no cure for asthma yet, but there are many things that you and your doctor can do to control asthma flare ups.

Breathing

Breathing involves the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide. When air is inhaled (breathing air in), oxygen from the air is taken into the lungs and exchanged for carbon dioxide, a waste product of the body. When air is exhaled (breathing air out), carbon dioxide is forced out of the lungs.



The air sacs are separated from the blood vessels of the lungs by a thin membrane. It is across this membrane that the oxygen from the “fresh” air is exchanged for carbon dioxide (“used” air). The heart pumps the blood with this fresh air with oxygen to all parts of the body.