30.6 Lymphatic System

**KEY CONCEPT**

The lymphatic system provides another type of circulation in the body.
30.6 Lymphatic System

Lymph is collected from tissues and returned to the circulatory system.

- The lymphatic system collects fluid that leaks out of the capillaries.
  - Lymph vessels have valves to prevent backflow.
  - Lymph nodes filter the lymph and destroy foreign matter.
  - Lymph vessels return cleaned fluid to the circulatory system.
- If lymph vessels or nodes are damaged, lymph collects in an area.
The lymphatic system is a major part of the immune system.

- Structures in the lymphatic system help fight disease.
  - Tonsils filter bacteria and viruses
  - Thymus develops white blood cells
  - Spleen filters lymph, contains immune cells

- Lymphocytes help destroy pathogens, parasites, and foreign matter.