

TOPIC: ORGANIZATION OF THE BODY: THORACIC CAVITY

Putting It Together: Organization of the Thoracic Cavity

- *Recall:* Thoracic cavity: space superior to the diaphragm. Within it are:

■ **Pleural Cavities (2):** _____ membrane bound.

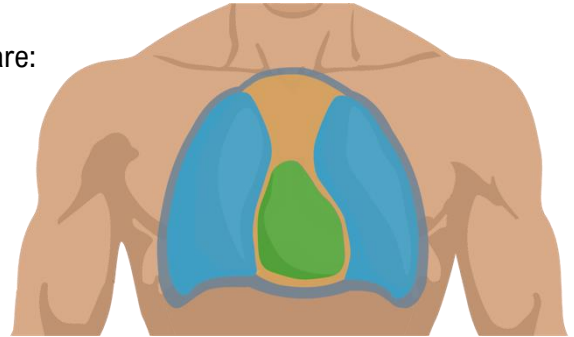
- Surround the lungs.

■ **Mediastinum:** Space between the pleural cavities.

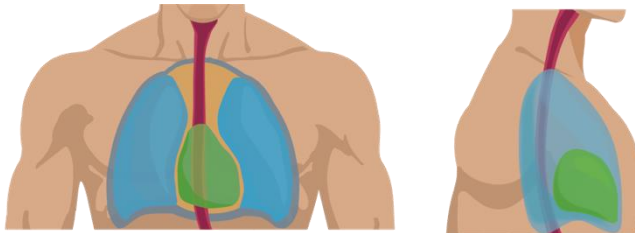
- Contains pericardial cavity, esophagus, trachea.
- _____ technically a cavity.

■ **Pericardial Cavity:** Serous membrane bound.

- Surrounds _____.



EXAMPLE: The esophagus is the superior section of the digestive tract running from the pharynx (back of the mouth) to the stomach. It runs through the middle of the thoracic cavity, behind the trachea and heart and through the diaphragm where it meets the stomach in the abdominal cavity. Based on that information, fill in the table below.



Location	Is the esophagus found inside?	If no, directional term indicating its relative location.
Thoracic cavity		
Pericardial cavity		
Pleural cavity		
Mediastinum		

PRACTICE: Which term describes a structure that is directly superficial to the heart?

- a) Thoracic
- b) Pericardium
- c) Mediastinum
- d) Pleural cavity

PRACTICE: How does the structure of the pleurae aid in their function?

- a) Serous fluid reduces friction.
- b) Rigid shape gives structure to the flexible lungs.
- c) Large surface area helps gas diffuse.
- d) A & C are correct.