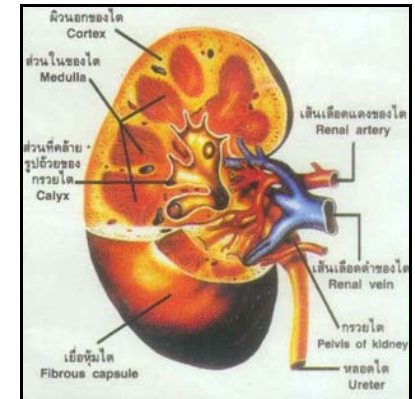


The Kidney

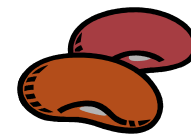
Kidneys are always busy

Besides filtering the blood and balancing fluids every second during the day, the kidneys constantly react to hormones that the brain sends them. Kidneys even make some of their own hormones. For example, the kidneys produce a hormone that tells the body to make red blood cells.



Most people can survive with only one kidney!

Kidneys normally come in pairs. If you've ever seen a kidney bean, then you have a pretty good idea what the kidneys look like. Each kidney is about 5 inches long and about 3 inches wide about the size of a computer mouse.



One of the main jobs of the kidneys is to filter the waste out of the blood. About 400 gallons of recycled blood are pumped through the kidneys every day.