

Main subject: Biology

Linked subjects:

**Year
7/8/9**

1. RS 2.

Title

The aim of this extension task is to:

Develop understanding of how organ transplants work and the ethical issues surrounding this.

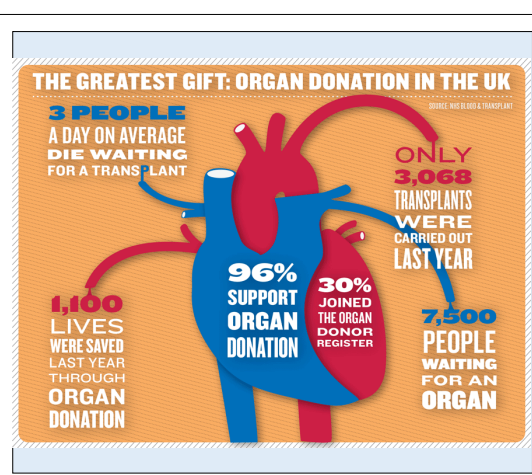
Why Not?
It's just for fun!

Context of task:

Many diseases can negatively affect a person's organs and sometimes people experience 'organ failure'. As a result, an organ transplant may be necessary. It's important that the organ being donated is a suitable match for the recipient, otherwise the organ may be rejected by the body. Scientists have developed a way to grow organs in other animals and transplant them. (Xenotransplantation). There are many potential ethical issues surrounding this topic that link with ideas developed in R.S.

Questions / Issues to address:

1. Who decides who is most worthy of an organ transplant? For example: An elderly alcoholic or a child with a rare genetic liver disease?
2. What determines if a person is a suitable tissue match for organ donation?
What happens if a suitable match cannot be found? Social media campaigns?
Is it assumed in the UK that everyone is an organ donor? Opt-out scheme?
3. What happens if the donated organ is rejected?
4. How could Xenotransplantation help reduce the chances of an organ being rejected?
5. Is it ethical for parents to have another child for that child to act as a "saviour sibling"?
(think about the topics explored in the book 'My Sister's Keeper')
6. How is scientific research developing to help solve the crisis of organ donation?



Expectation

Present your research in one of the following ways:

E.g. 2 sides A4 / power point / video

Deadline: 3 weeks from when you start

Note to students:

It is not essential, but you are encouraged to extend this task into an area of your own particular interest . If you would like to do so, please discuss your ideas with your teacher.