

**Procedure**

1. Wash the heart with cold water. Drain and dry it with paper towels.
2. Place the heart on the dissecting board/white tray so that the front (ventral) side is facing up.
3. The front of the heart is recognised by feeling the sidewalls. **The left side will feel much firmer than the right side.**
4. To further identify the front of the heart observe **a groove** that extends from the right side of the broad end of the heart diagonally downward. This groove is the location of a coronary vessel. (Fig.l)
5. Locate the following chambers of the heart:

 **left atrium** - upper chamber on your right

 **left ventricle** - lower chamber on. your right

**right atrium** - upper chamber on your left

 **right ventricle** - lower chamber on your left (Fig. 2).



*Figure 2 Chambers of the hear*

1. Note the main blood vessels located at the **broad end** of the heart.
2. **Draw a labeled sketch of the external structure of the heart.**
3. Carefully make a shallow cut in the **left ventricle and left atrium** following the lines in Fig. 3



*Figure 3 Points of incision*

1. Using your fingers, push open the heart at the cut to examine the internal structure. If there is blood inside the chambers, rinse out the heart.
2. Observe the different sizes of the chambers.
3. Locate the **bicuspid valve** between the left atrium and left ventricle. This valve consists of two flaps.
4. Insert the forceps under the **chordae tendinae** and notice that they extend from the valve, to the **papillary muscles.**
5. Repeat steps 8 to 10 for the other side of the heart.
6. Note the **difference in thickness between the walls of the left and right ventricles**.
7. Locate the **tricuspid valve** between the **right atrium and the right ventricle.** This valve consists of three flaps.
8. Find the **septum,** a thick muscular wall, which separates the right and ieft venlricies.
9. Insert the seeker (or your finger) through the arteries and veins in order to identify them.
10. Using the scalpel cut open the aorta and observe the **semi-lunar valve.** Note the three half-moon shaped flaps of this valve.
11. Find two small openings at the base of the aorta just above the semi-lunar valve. These lead into the **coronary arteries**. Insert the seeker into a coronary artery to trace its pathway.
12. Wash and sterilise the dissecting instruments after use.
13. **Draw a large labelled diagram of the internal structure of the heart.**