

# Chapter 44

## Osmoregulation and Excretion

PowerPoint® Lecture Presentations for

### **Biology**

*Eighth Edition*

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Lectures by Chris Romero, updated by Erin Barley with contributions from Joan Sharp

# Overview: A Balancing Act

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- Physiological systems of animals operate in a fluid environment
- Relative concentrations of water and solutes must be maintained within fairly narrow limits
- **Osmoregulation** regulates solute concentrations and balances the gain and loss of water

- 
- Freshwater animals show adaptations that reduce water uptake and conserve solutes
  - Desert and marine animals face desiccating environments that can quickly deplete body water
  - **Excretion** gets rid of nitrogenous metabolites and other waste products

Fig. 44-1



## Concept 44.1: Osmoregulation balances the uptake and loss of water and solutes

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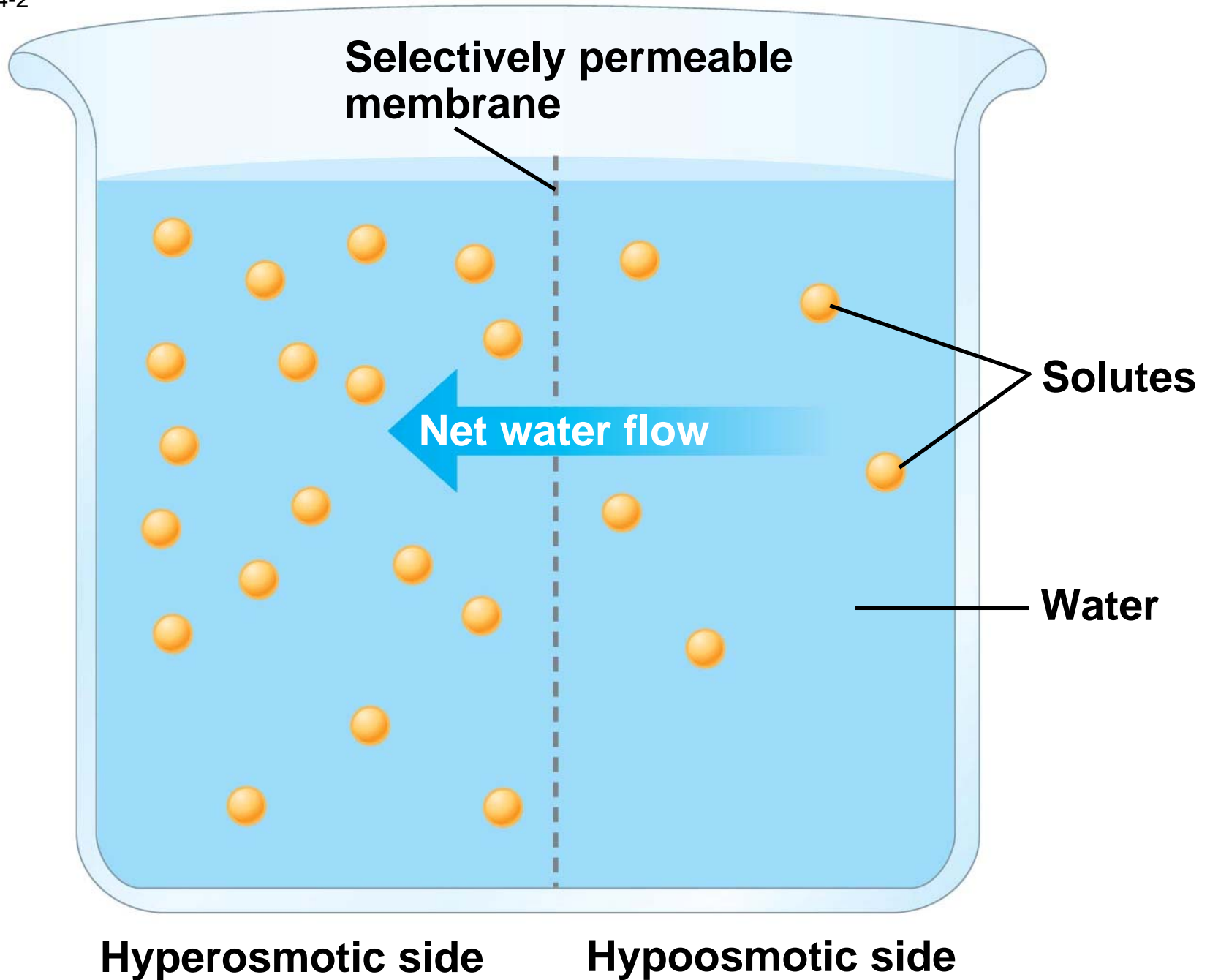
- Osmoregulation is based largely on controlled movement of solutes between internal fluids and the external environment

# Osmosis and Osmolarity

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- Cells require a balance between osmotic gain and loss of water
- **Osmolarity**, the solute concentration of a solution, determines the movement of water across a selectively permeable membrane
- If two solutions are *isoosmotic*, the movement of water is equal in both directions
- If two solutions differ in osmolarity, the net flow of water is from the hypoosmotic to the hyperosmotic solution

Fig. 44-2



# Osmotic Challenges

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- **Osmoconformers**, consisting only of some marine animals, are isoosmotic with their surroundings and do not regulate their osmolarity
- **Osmoregulators** expend energy to control water uptake and loss in a hyperosmotic or hypoosmotic environment



- 
- Most animals are **stenohaline**; they cannot tolerate substantial changes in external osmolarity
  - **Euryhaline** animals can survive large fluctuations in external osmolarity

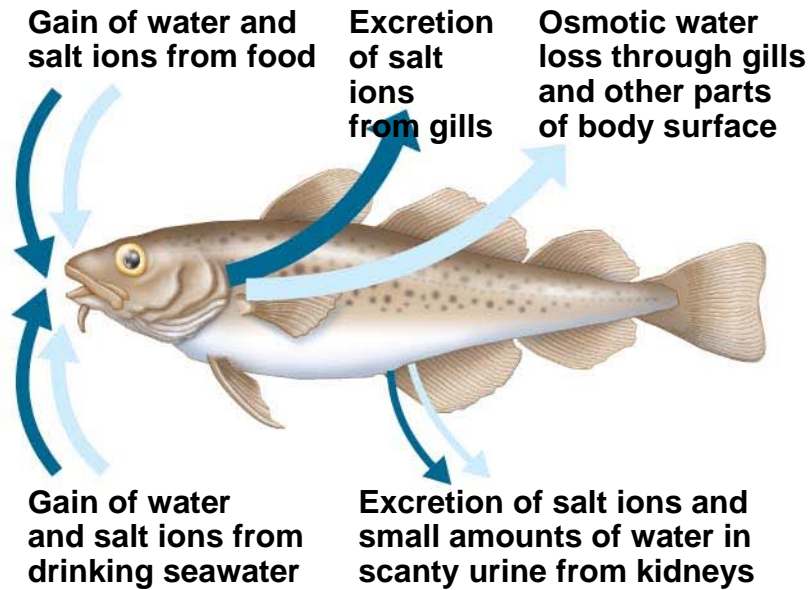
Fig. 44-3



# *Marine Animals*

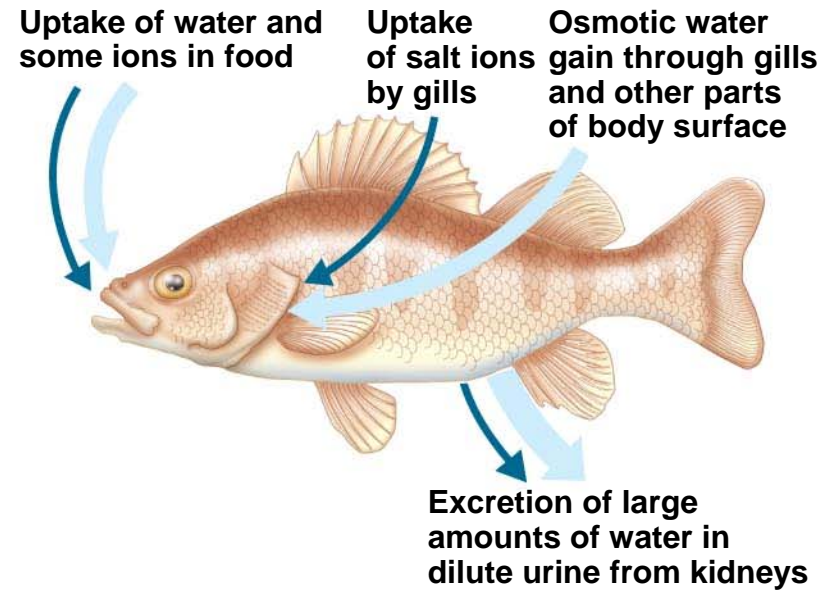
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- Most marine invertebrates are osmoconformers
- Most marine vertebrates and some invertebrates are osmoregulators
- Marine bony fishes are hypoosmotic to sea water
- They lose water by osmosis and gain salt by diffusion and from food
- They balance water loss by drinking seawater and excreting salts

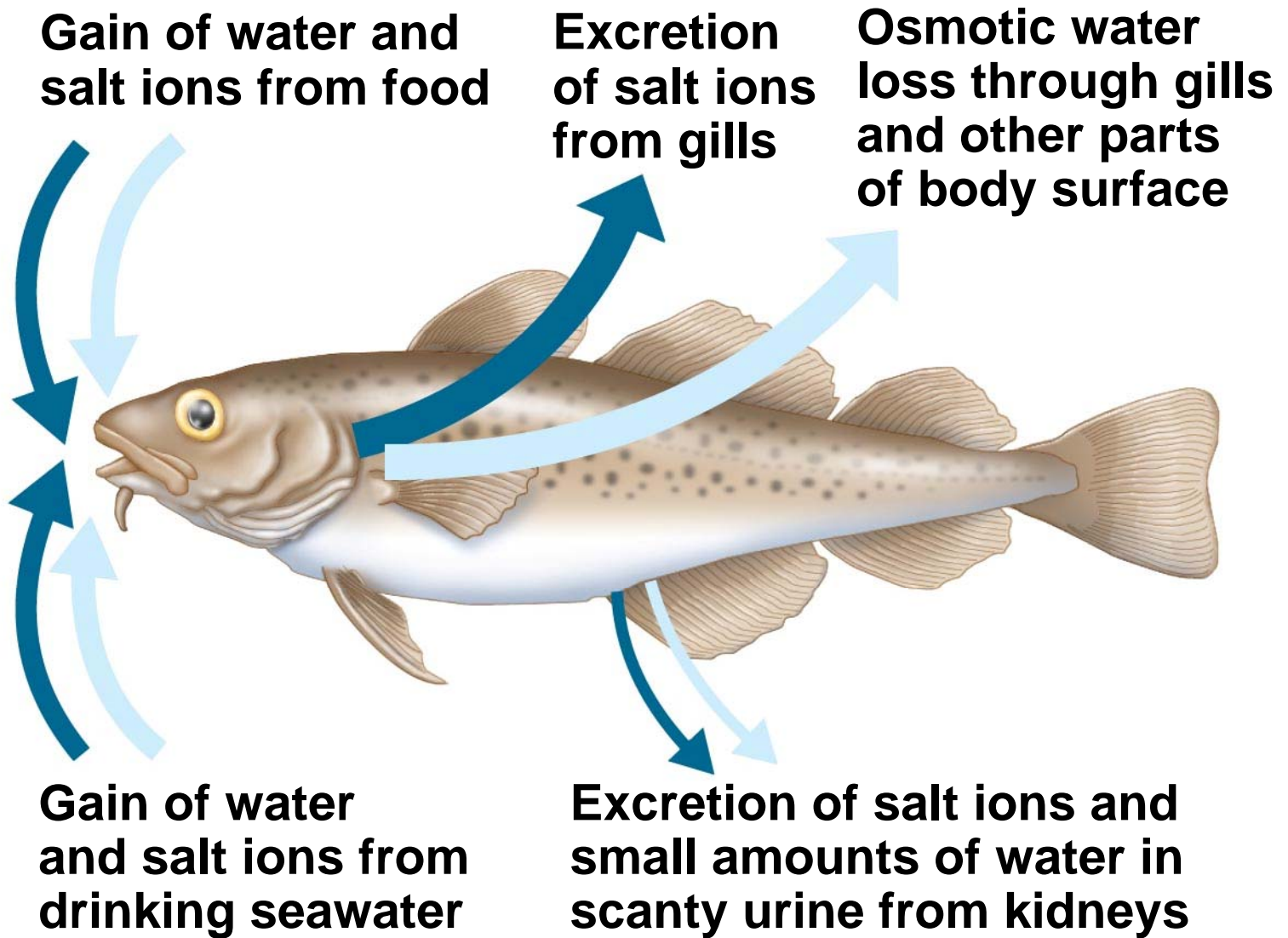


**(a) Osmoregulation in a saltwater fish**

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**(b) Osmoregulation in a freshwater fish**



**(a) Osmoregulation in a saltwater fish**

# *Freshwater Animals*

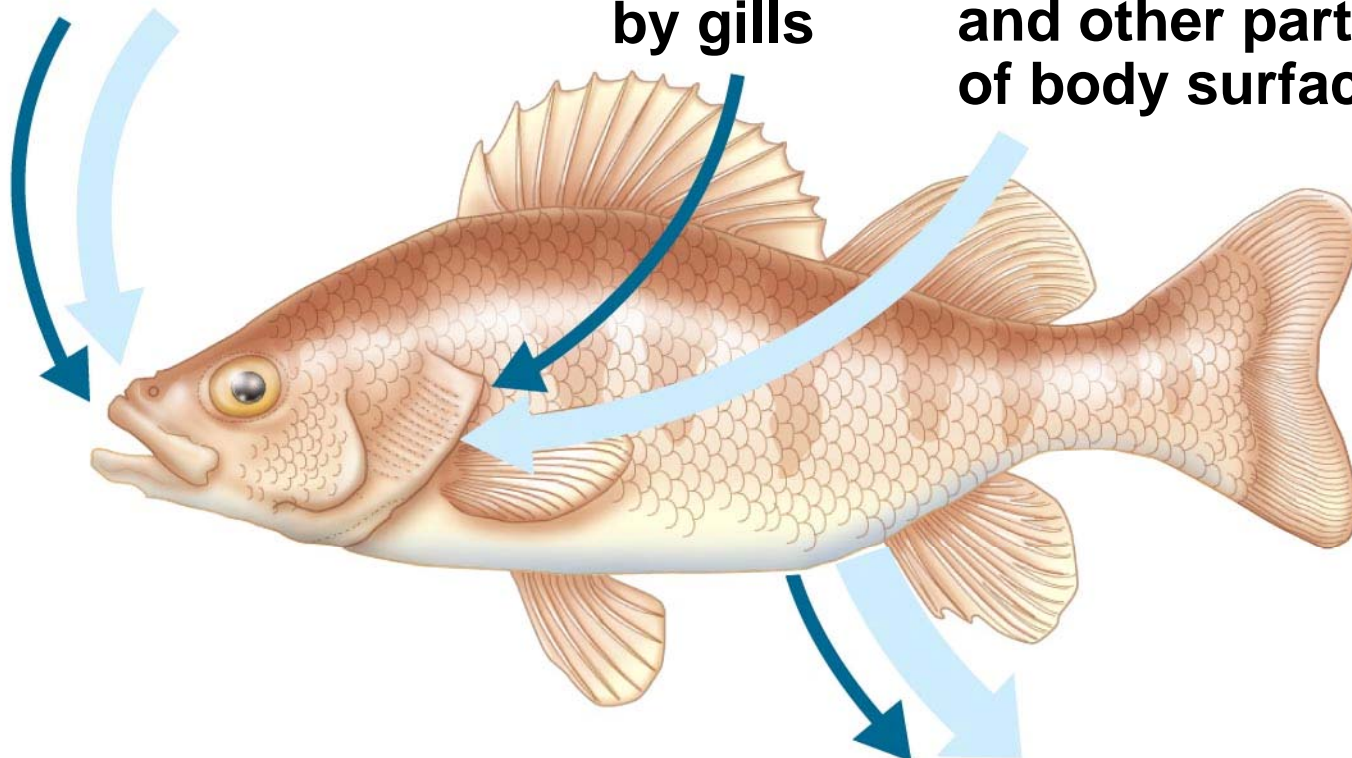
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- Freshwater animals constantly take in water by osmosis from their hypoosmotic environment
- They lose salts by diffusion and maintain water balance by excreting large amounts of dilute urine
- Salts lost by diffusion are replaced in foods and by uptake across the gills

**Uptake of water and some ions in food**

**Uptake of salt ions by gills**

**Osmotic water gain through gills and other parts of body surface**



**Excretion of large amounts of water in dilute urine from kidneys**

## **(b) Osmoregulation in a freshwater fish**

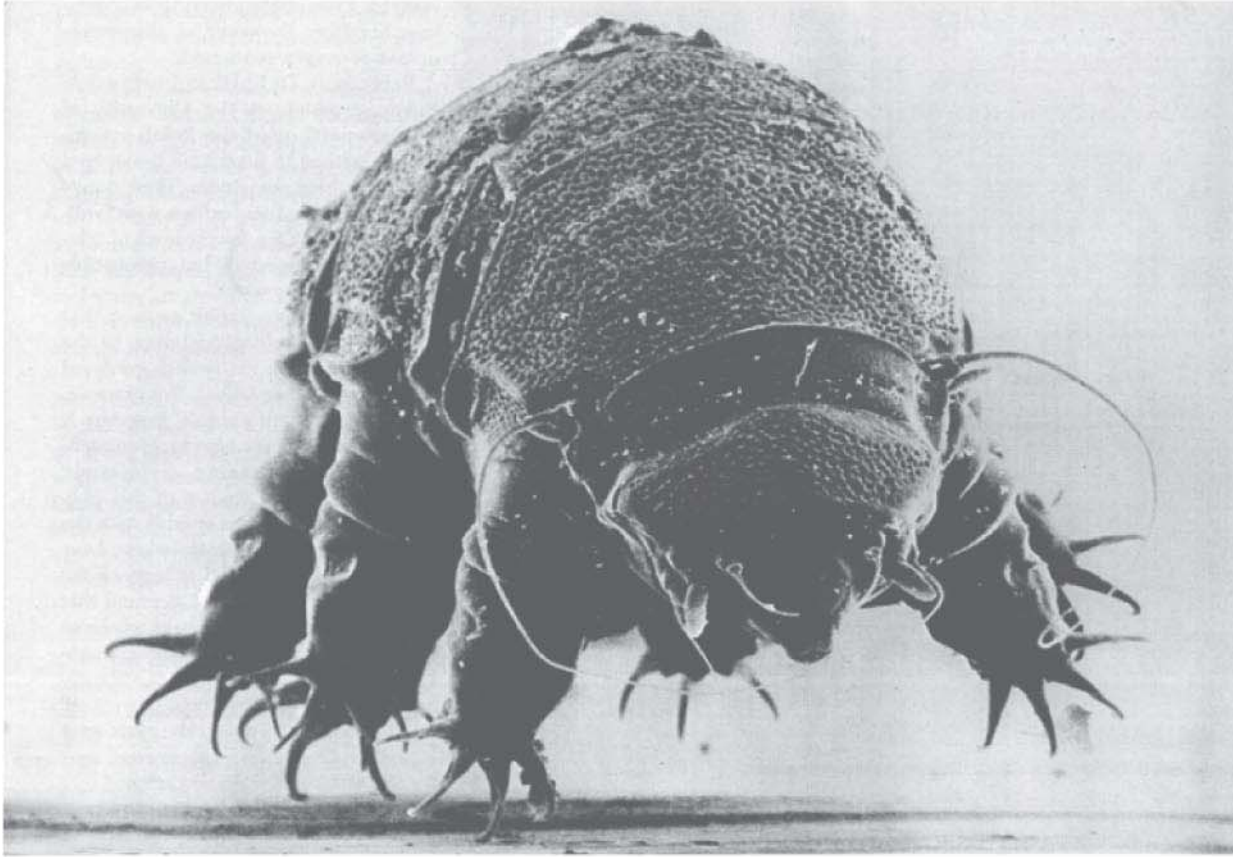
# *Animals That Live in Temporary Waters*

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- Some aquatic invertebrates in temporary ponds lose almost all their body water and survive in a dormant state
- This adaptation is called **anhydrobiosis**

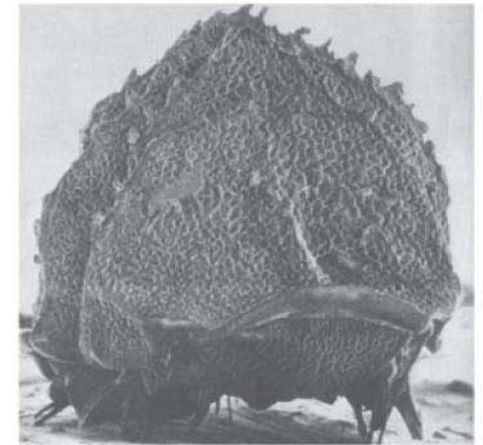


100  $\mu\text{m}$



**(a) Hydrated tardigrade**

100  $\mu\text{m}$



**(b) Dehydrated tardigrade**

# *Land Animals*

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- Land animals manage water budgets by drinking and eating moist foods and using metabolic water
- Desert animals get major water savings from simple anatomical features and behaviors such as a nocturnal life style

### Water balance in a kangaroo rat (2 mL/day)



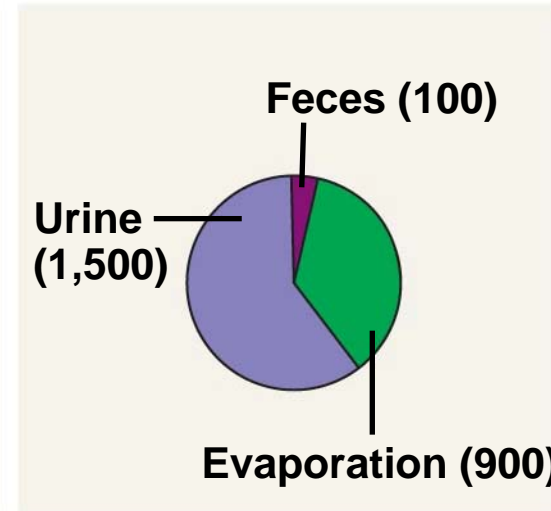
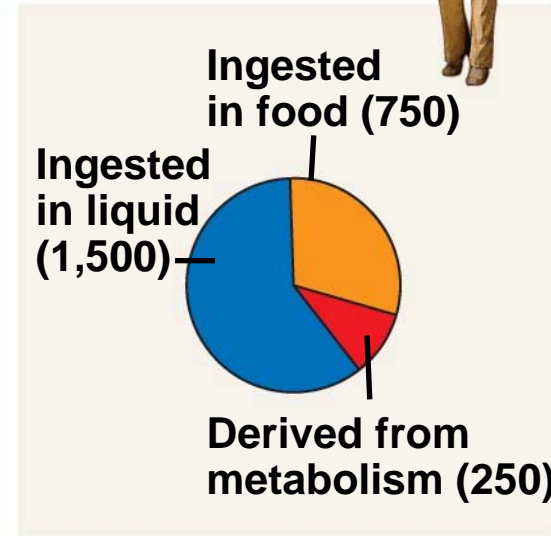
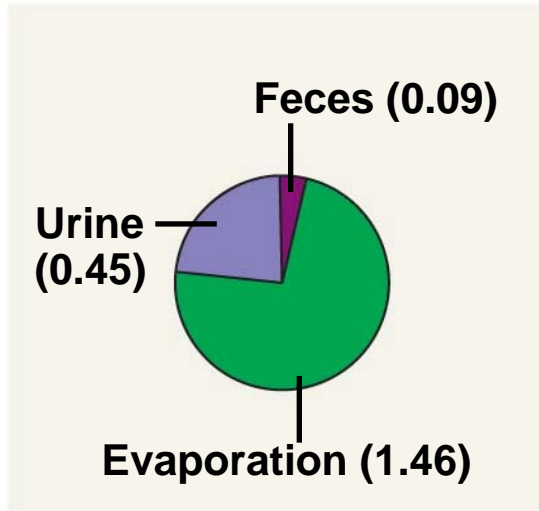
Water gain (mL)



### Water balance in a human (2,500 mL/day)



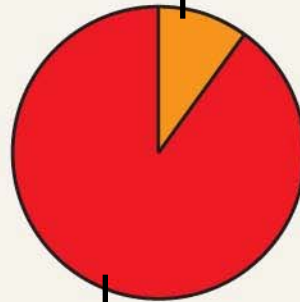
Water loss (mL)



### Water balance in a kangaroo rat (2 mL/day)



Ingested in food (0.2)



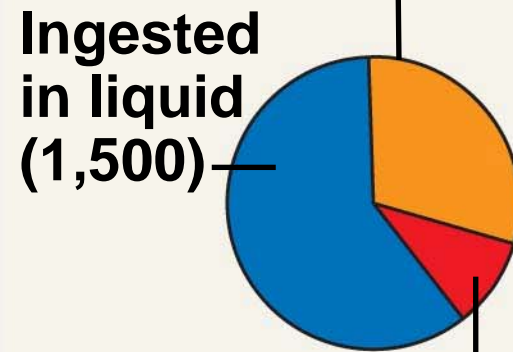
Derived from metabolism (1.8)

Water gain (mL)

### Water balance in a human (2,500 mL/day)



Ingested in food (750)

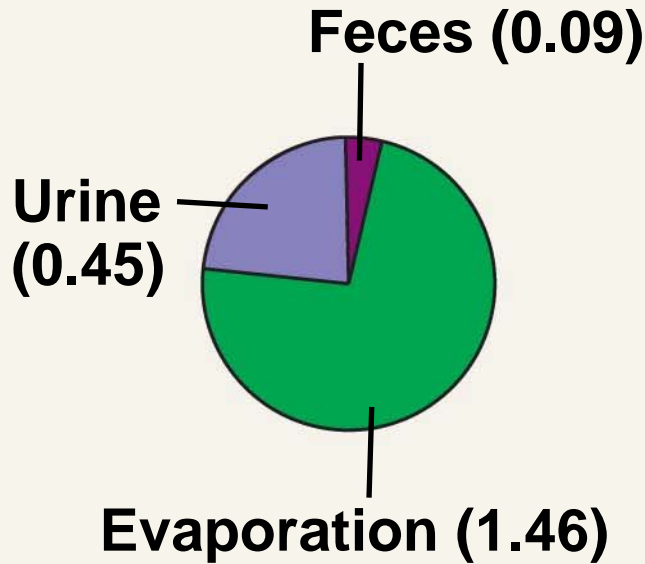


Derived from metabolism (250)

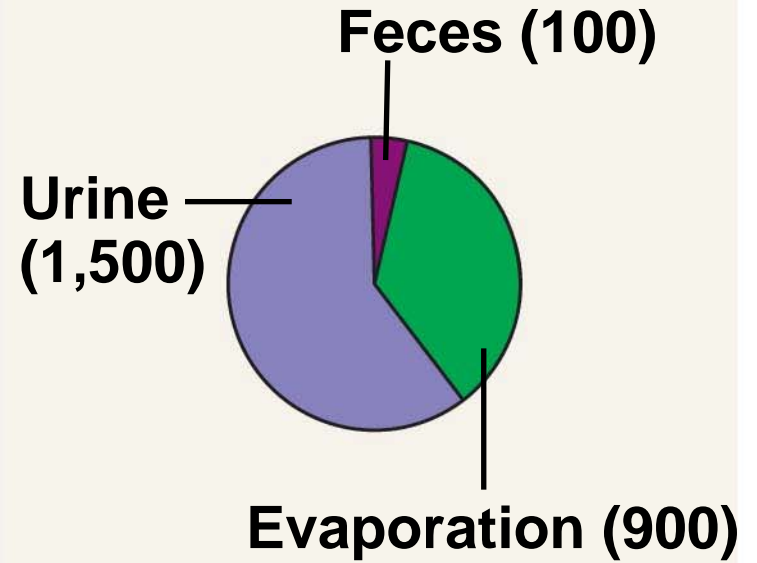
### Water balance in a kangaroo rat (2 mL/day)



Water loss (mL)



### Water balance in a human (2,500 mL/day)



# Energetics of Osmoregulation

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- Osmoregulators must expend energy to maintain osmotic gradients

# Transport Epithelia in Osmoregulation

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- Animals regulate the composition of body fluid that bathes their cells
- **Transport epithelia** are specialized epithelial cells that regulate solute movement
- They are essential components of osmotic regulation and metabolic waste disposal
- They are arranged in complex tubular networks
- An example is in salt glands of marine birds, which remove excess sodium chloride from the blood

# EXPERIMENT

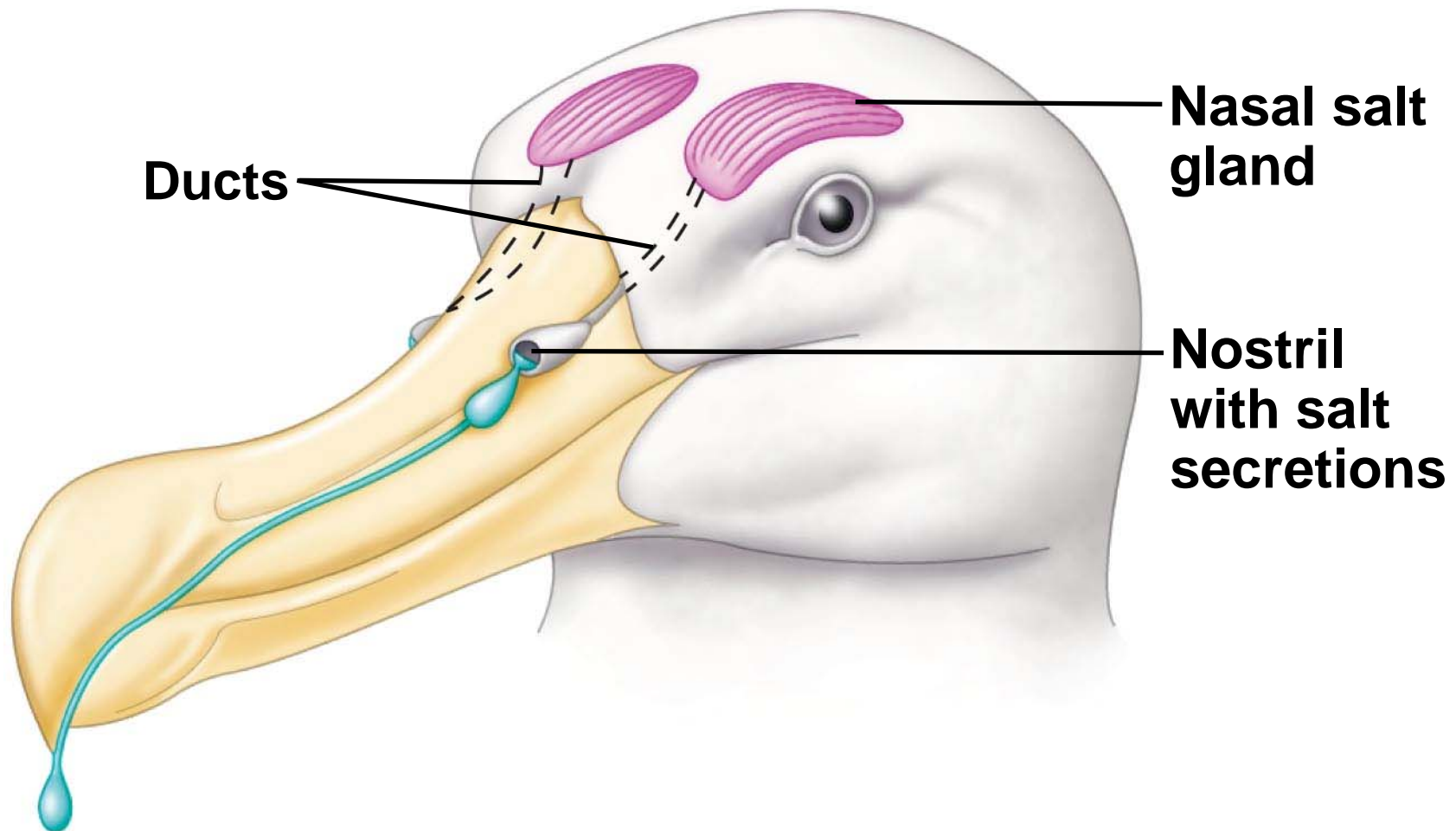
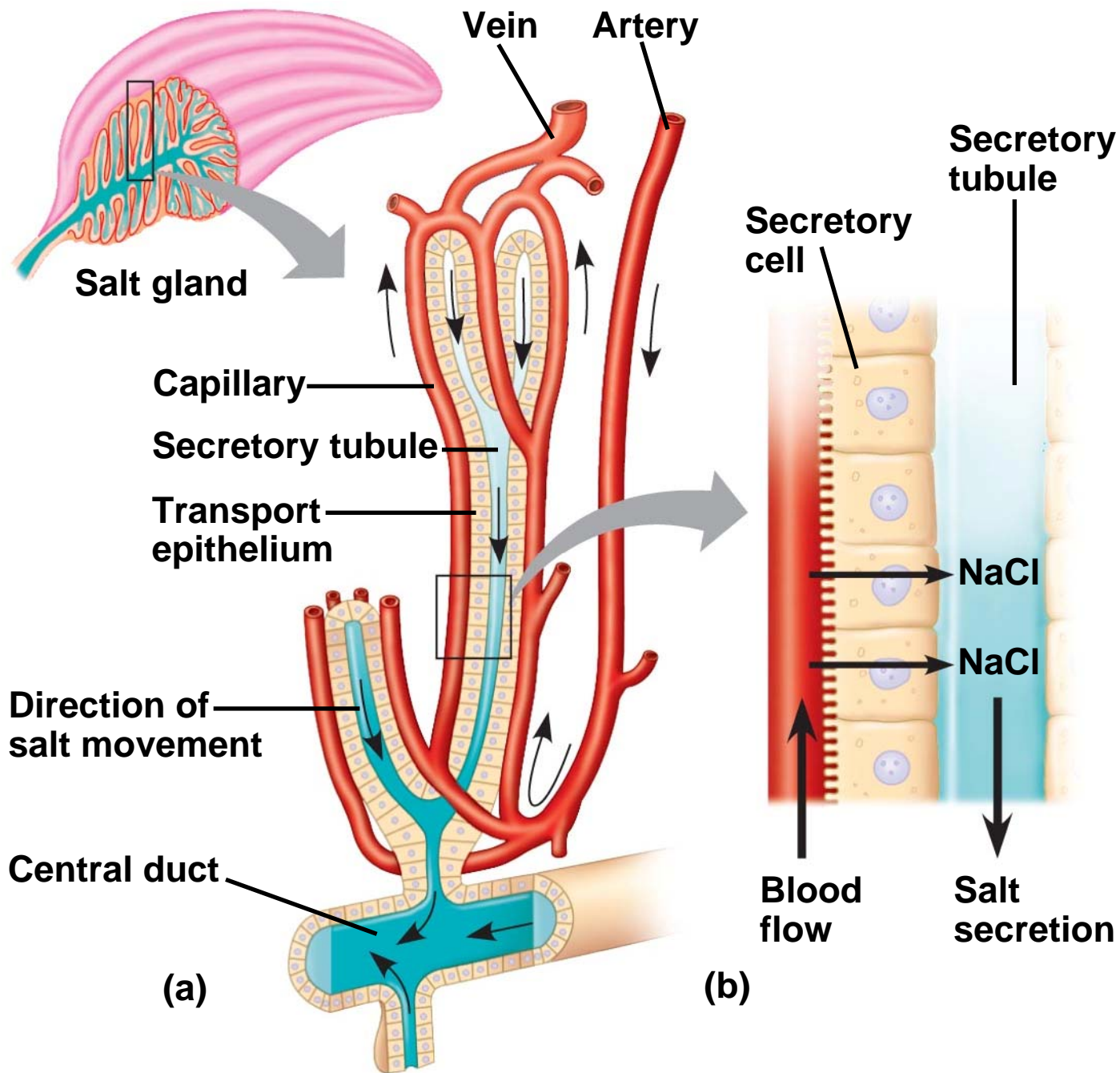




Fig. 44-8



## Concept 44.2: An animal's nitrogenous wastes reflect its phylogeny and habitat

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- The type and quantity of an animal's waste products may greatly affect its water balance
- Among the most important wastes are nitrogenous breakdown products of proteins and nucleic acids
- Some animals convert toxic **ammonia** ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) to less toxic compounds prior to excretion

Fig. 44-9

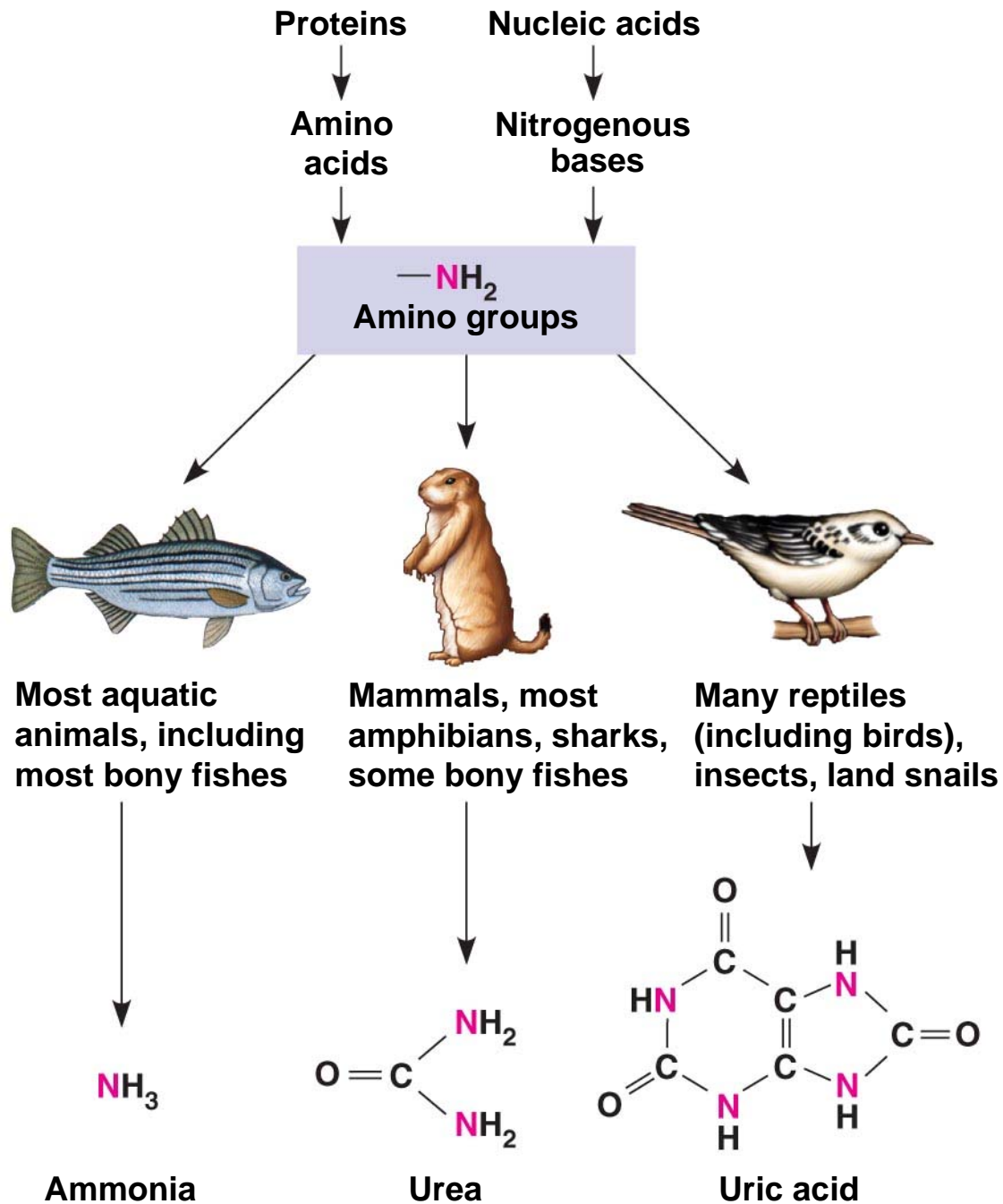
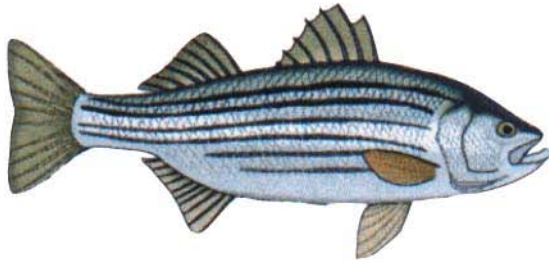


Fig. 44-9a



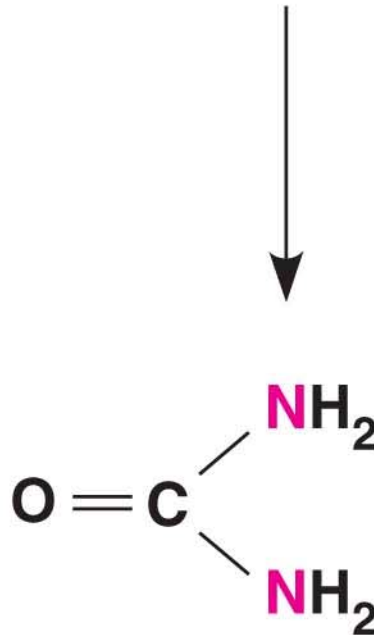
**Most aquatic animals, including most bony fishes**



**Ammonia**



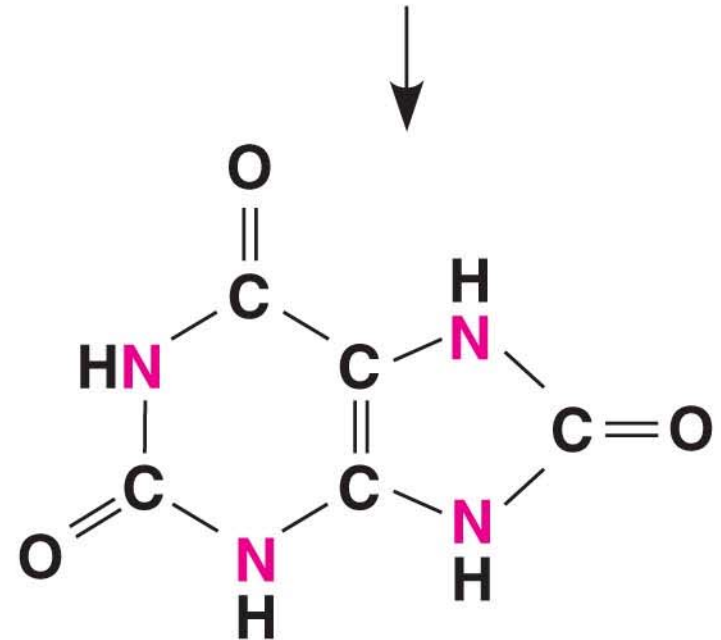
**Mammals, most amphibians, sharks, some bony fishes**



**Urea**



**Many reptiles (including birds), insects, land snails**



**Uric acid**

# Forms of Nitrogenous Wastes

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- Different animals excrete nitrogenous wastes in different forms: ammonia, urea, or uric acid

# *Ammonia*

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- Animals that excrete nitrogenous wastes as ammonia need lots of water
- They release ammonia across the whole body surface or through gills

# *Urea*

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- The liver of mammals and most adult amphibians converts ammonia to less toxic **urea**
- The circulatory system carries urea to the kidneys, where it is excreted
- Conversion of ammonia to urea is energetically expensive; excretion of urea requires less water than ammonia

# *Uric Acid*

---

- Insects, land snails, and many reptiles, including birds, mainly excrete **uric acid**
- Uric acid is largely insoluble in water and can be secreted as a paste with little water loss
- Uric acid is more energetically expensive to produce than urea



# The Influence of Evolution and Environment on Nitrogenous Wastes

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- The kinds of nitrogenous wastes excreted depend on an animal's evolutionary history and habitat
- The amount of nitrogenous waste is coupled to the animal's energy budget

## **Concept 44.3: Diverse excretory systems are variations on a tubular theme**

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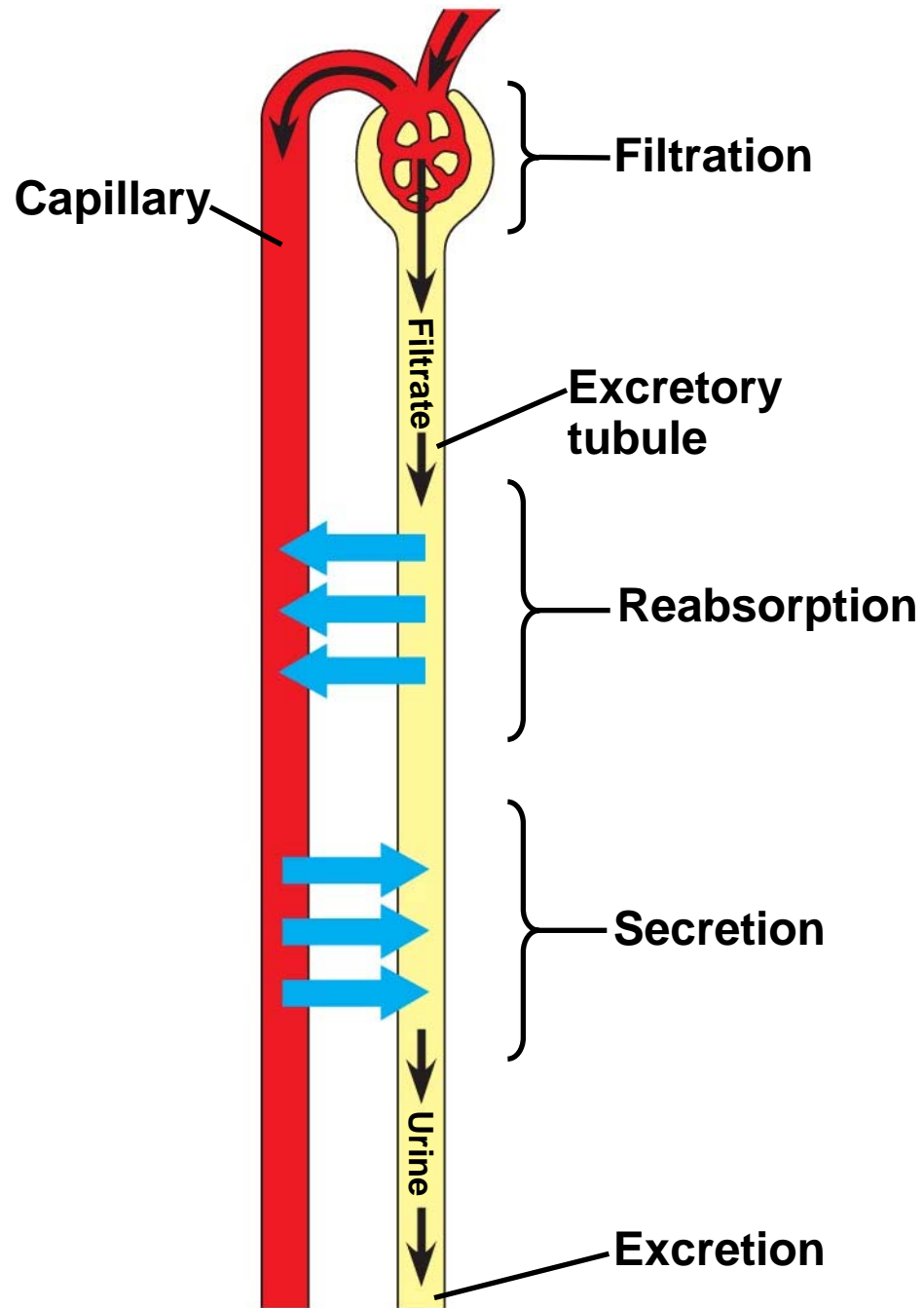
- Excretory systems regulate solute movement between internal fluids and the external environment

# Excretory Processes

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- Most excretory systems produce urine by refining a **filtrate** derived from body fluids
- Key functions of most excretory systems:
  - **Filtration**: pressure-filtering of body fluids
  - **Reabsorption**: reclaiming valuable solutes
  - **Secretion**: adding toxins and other solutes from the body fluids to the filtrate
  - **Excretion**: removing the filtrate from the system

Fig. 44-10



# Survey of Excretory Systems

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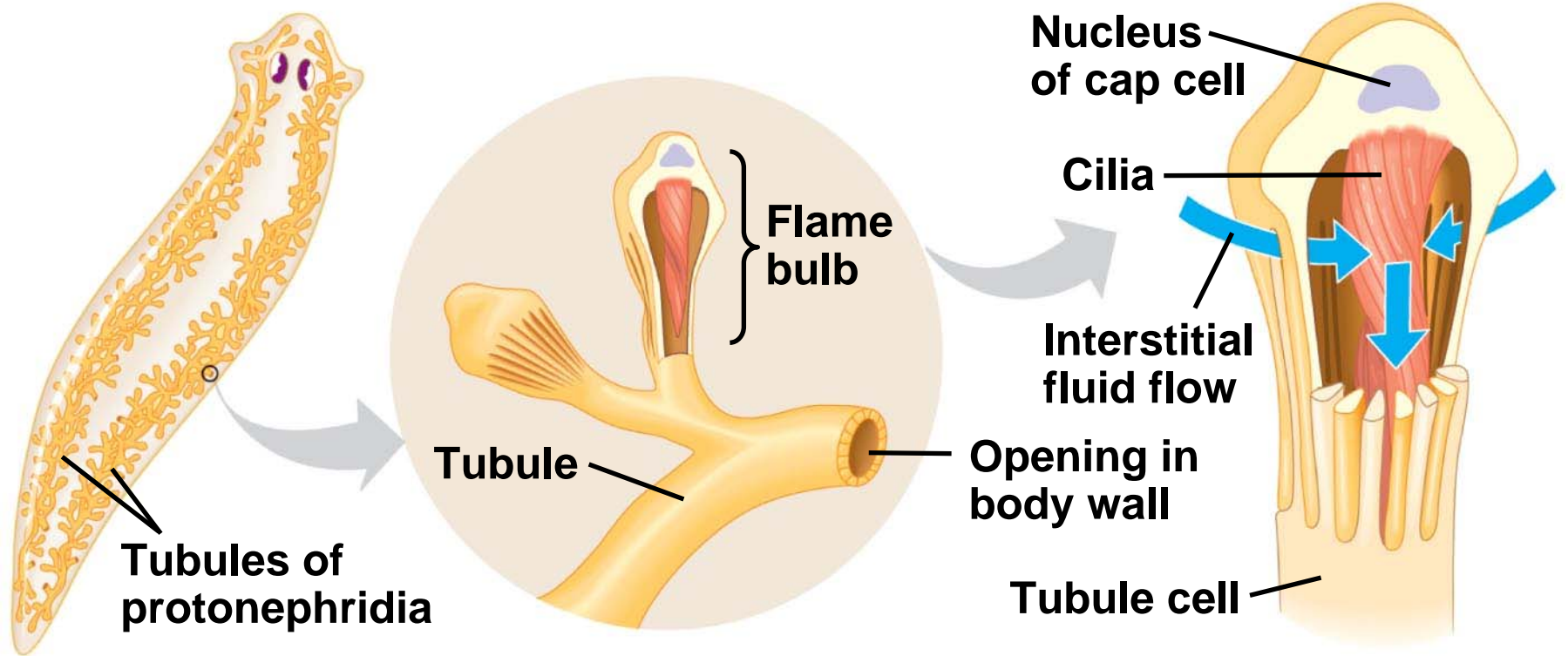
- Systems that perform basic excretory functions vary widely among animal groups
- They usually involve a complex network of tubules

# *Protonephridia*

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- A **protonephridium** is a network of dead-end tubules connected to external openings
- The smallest branches of the network are capped by a cellular unit called a flame bulb
- These tubules excrete a dilute fluid and function in osmoregulation

Fig. 44-11



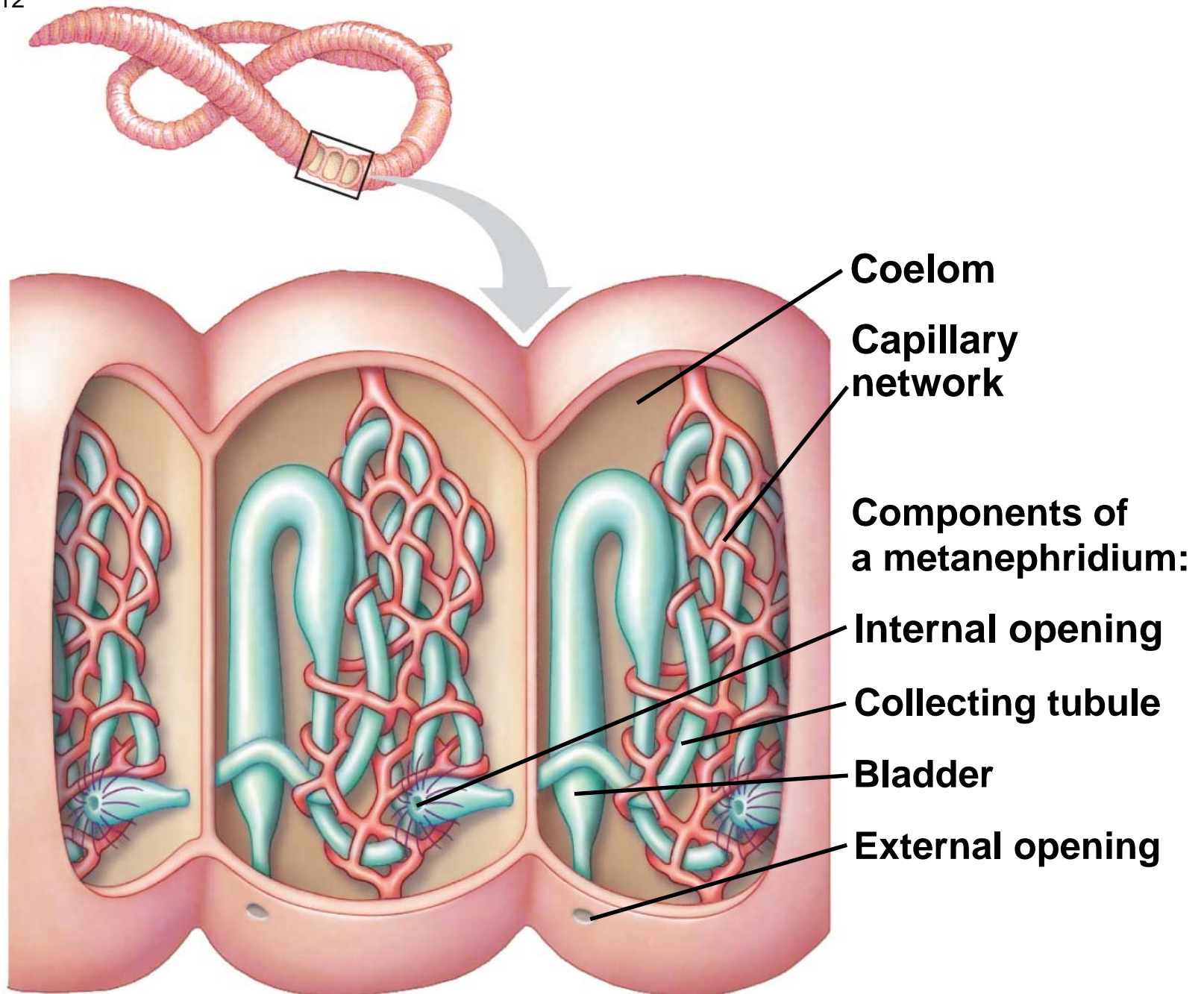
# *Metanephridia*

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- Each segment of an earthworm has a pair of open-ended **metanephridia**
- Metanephridia consist of tubules that collect coelomic fluid and produce dilute urine for excretion



Fig. 44-12

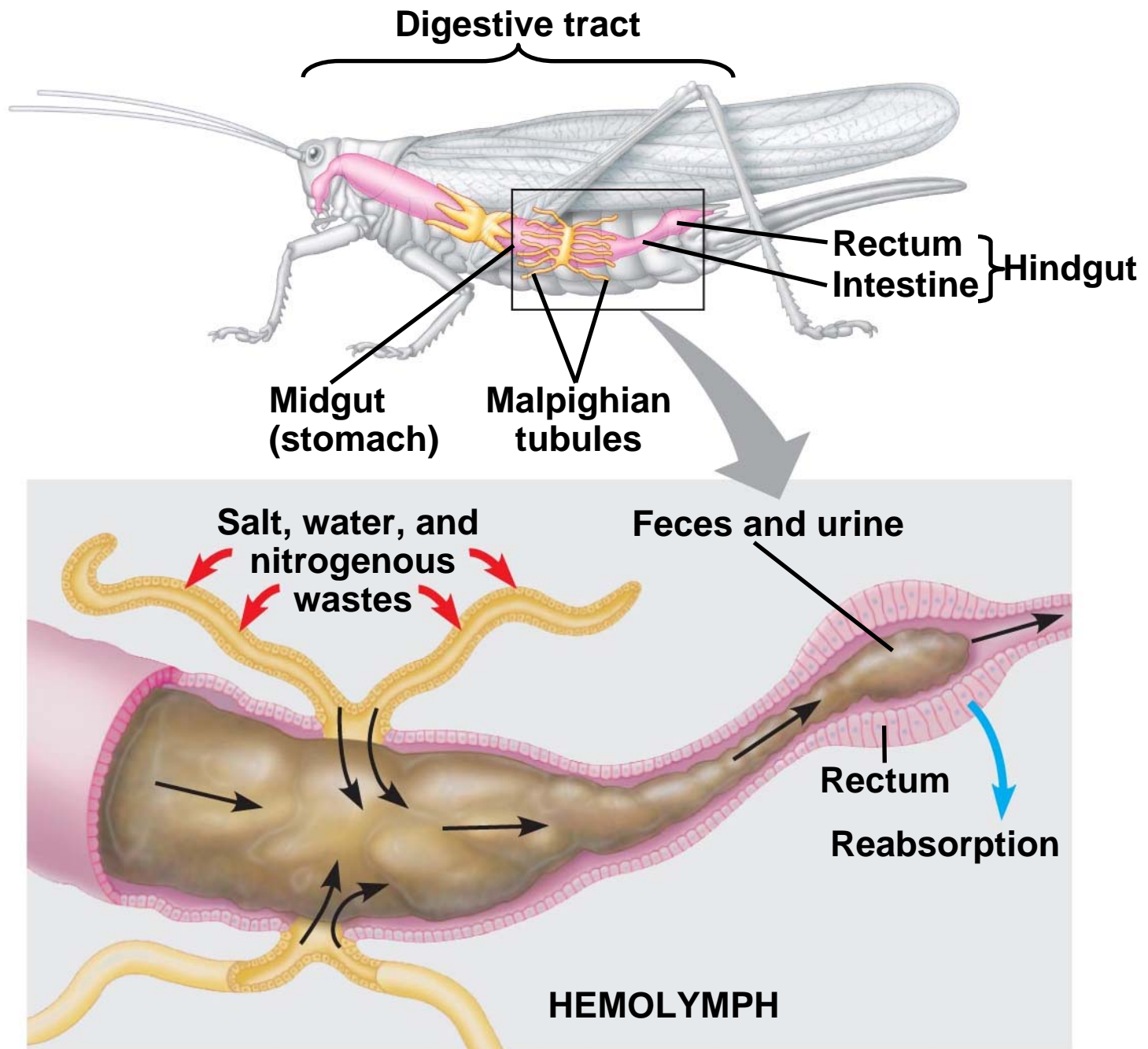


# *Malpighian Tubules*

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- In insects and other terrestrial arthropods, **Malpighian tubules** remove nitrogenous wastes from hemolymph and function in osmoregulation
- Insects produce a relatively dry waste matter, an important adaptation to terrestrial life

Fig. 44-13



# *Kidneys*

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- Kidneys, the excretory organs of vertebrates, function in both excretion and osmoregulation

# Structure of the Mammalian Excretory System

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- The mammalian excretory system centers on paired kidneys, which are also the principal site of water balance and salt regulation
- Each kidney is supplied with blood by a **renal artery** and drained by a **renal vein**
- Urine exits each kidney through a duct called the **ureter**
- Both ureters drain into a common **urinary bladder**, and urine is expelled through a **urethra**

**PLAY**

Animation: Nephron Introduction

Fig. 44-14

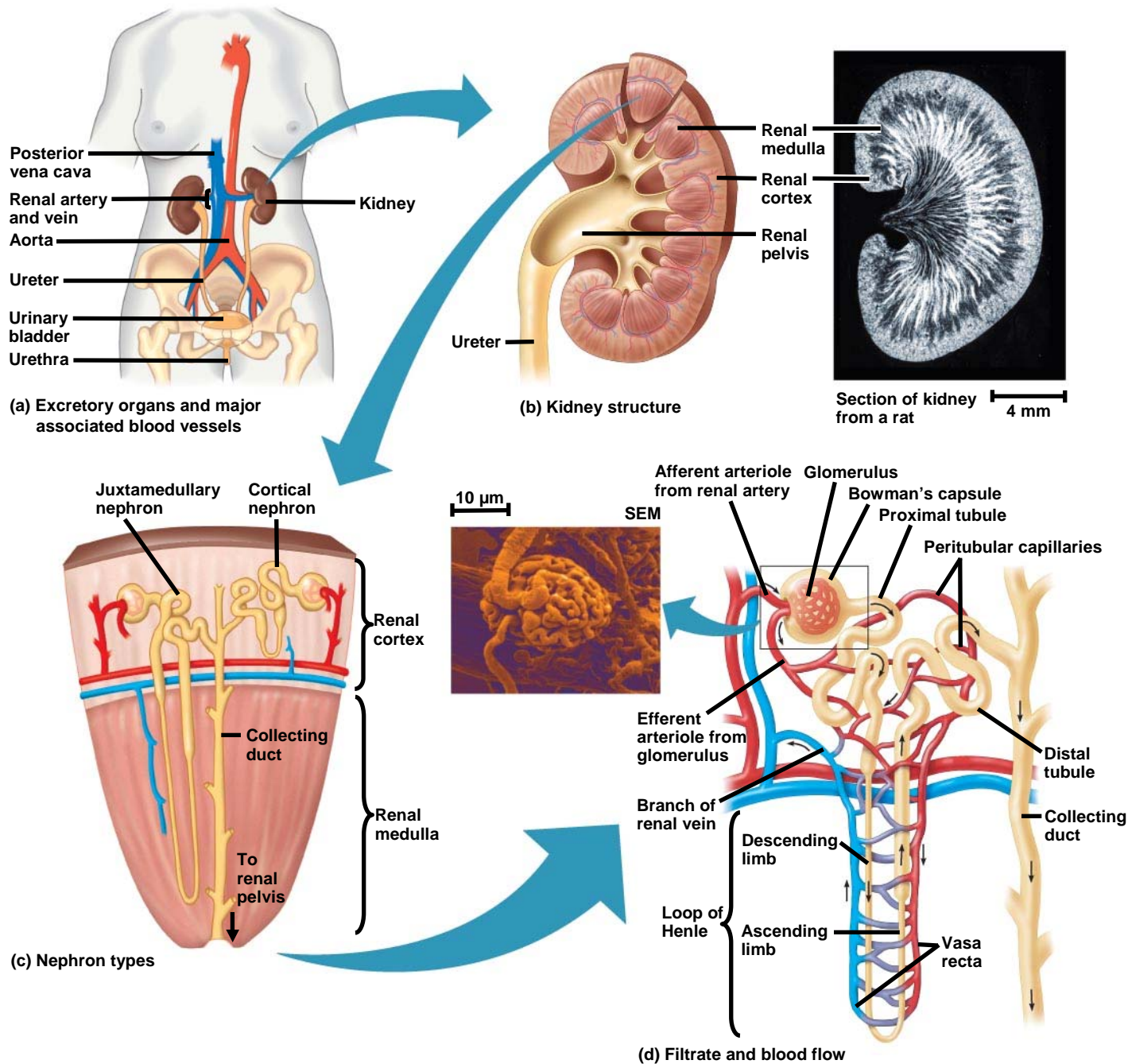
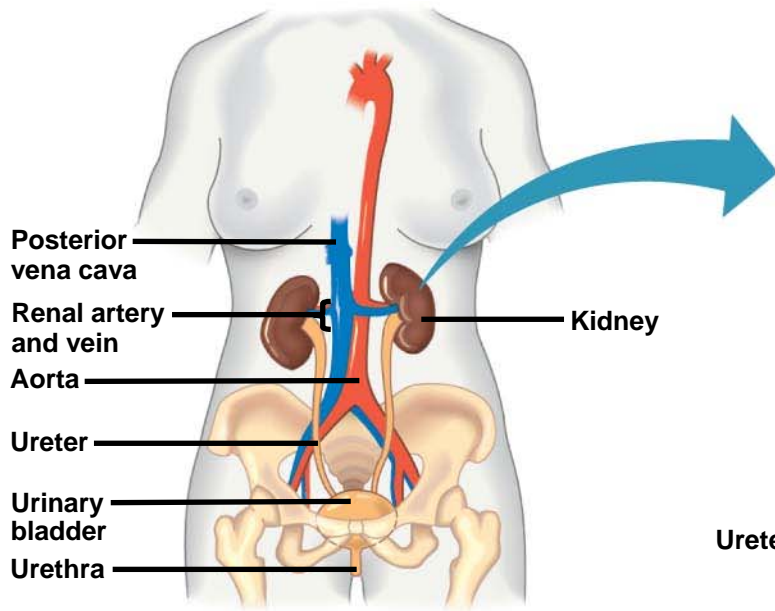
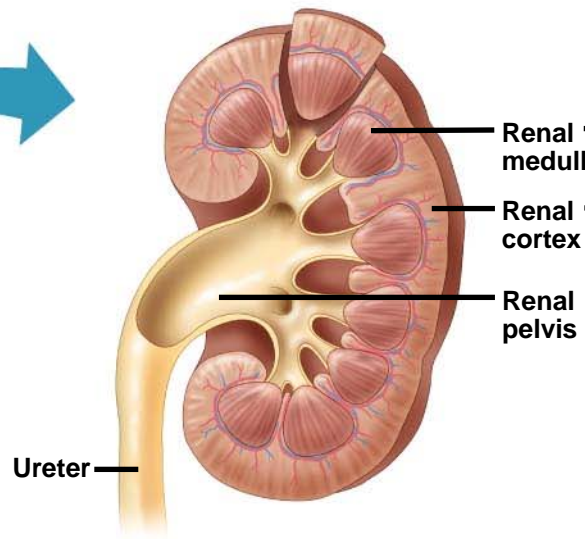


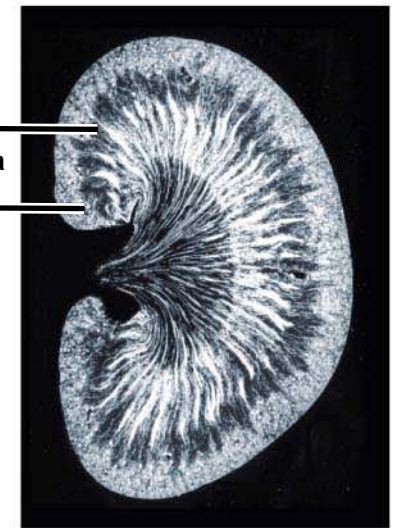
Fig. 44-14ab



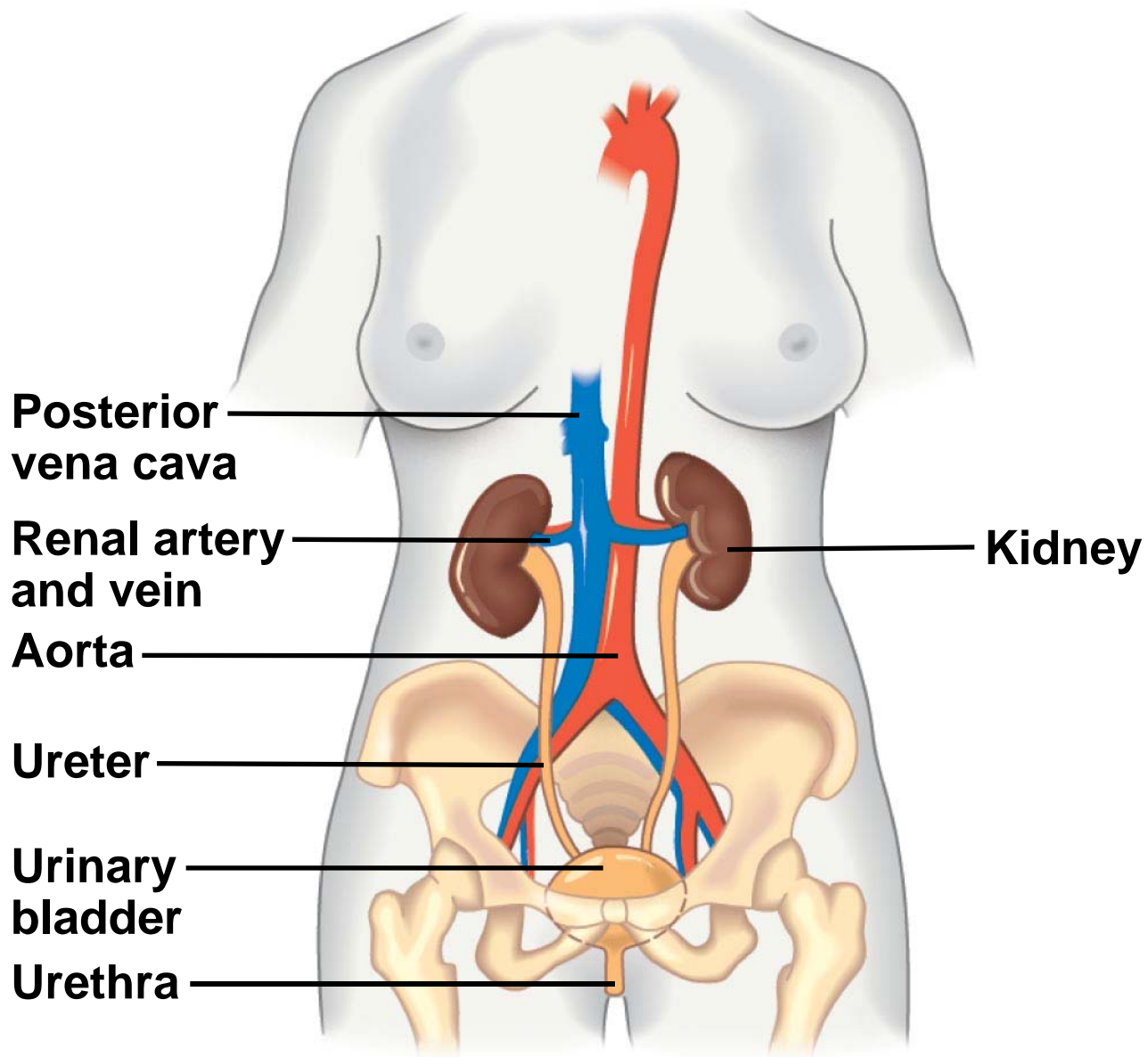
(a) Excretory organs and major associated blood vessels



(b) Kidney structure



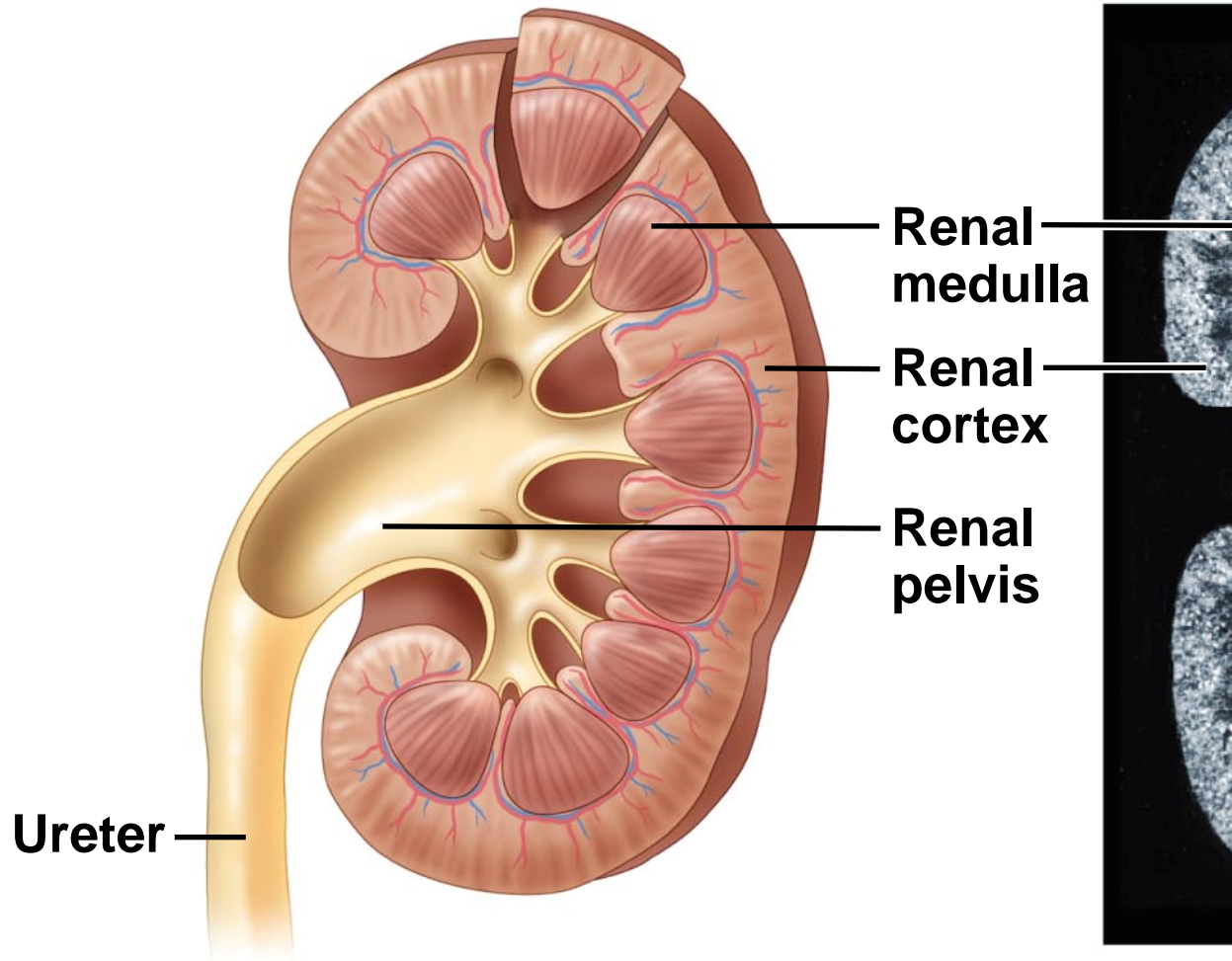
Section of kidney from a rat 4 mm



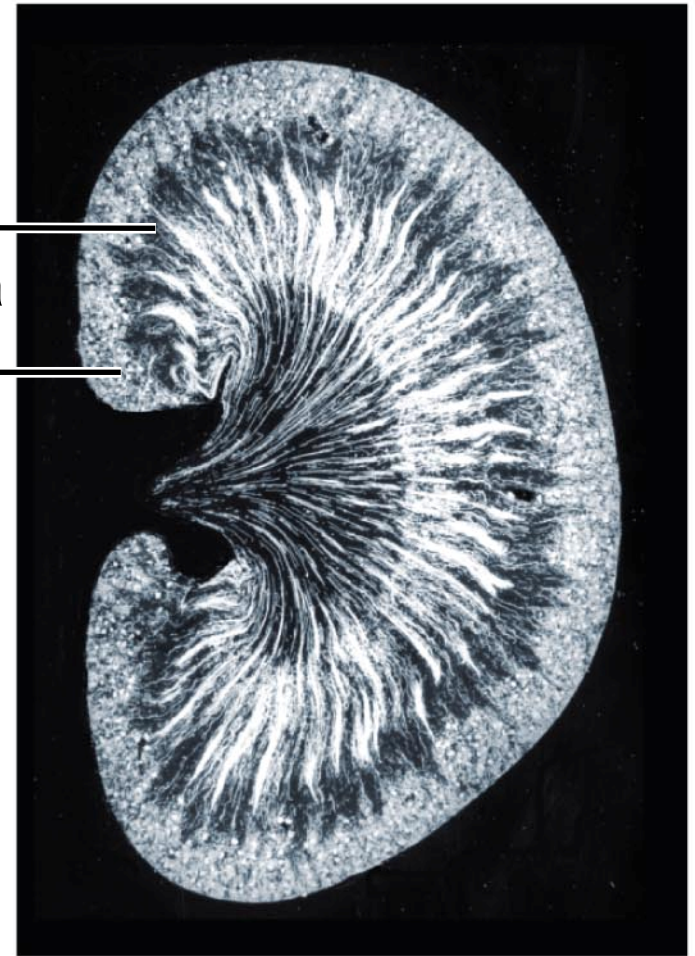
**(a) Excretory organs and major associated blood vessels**



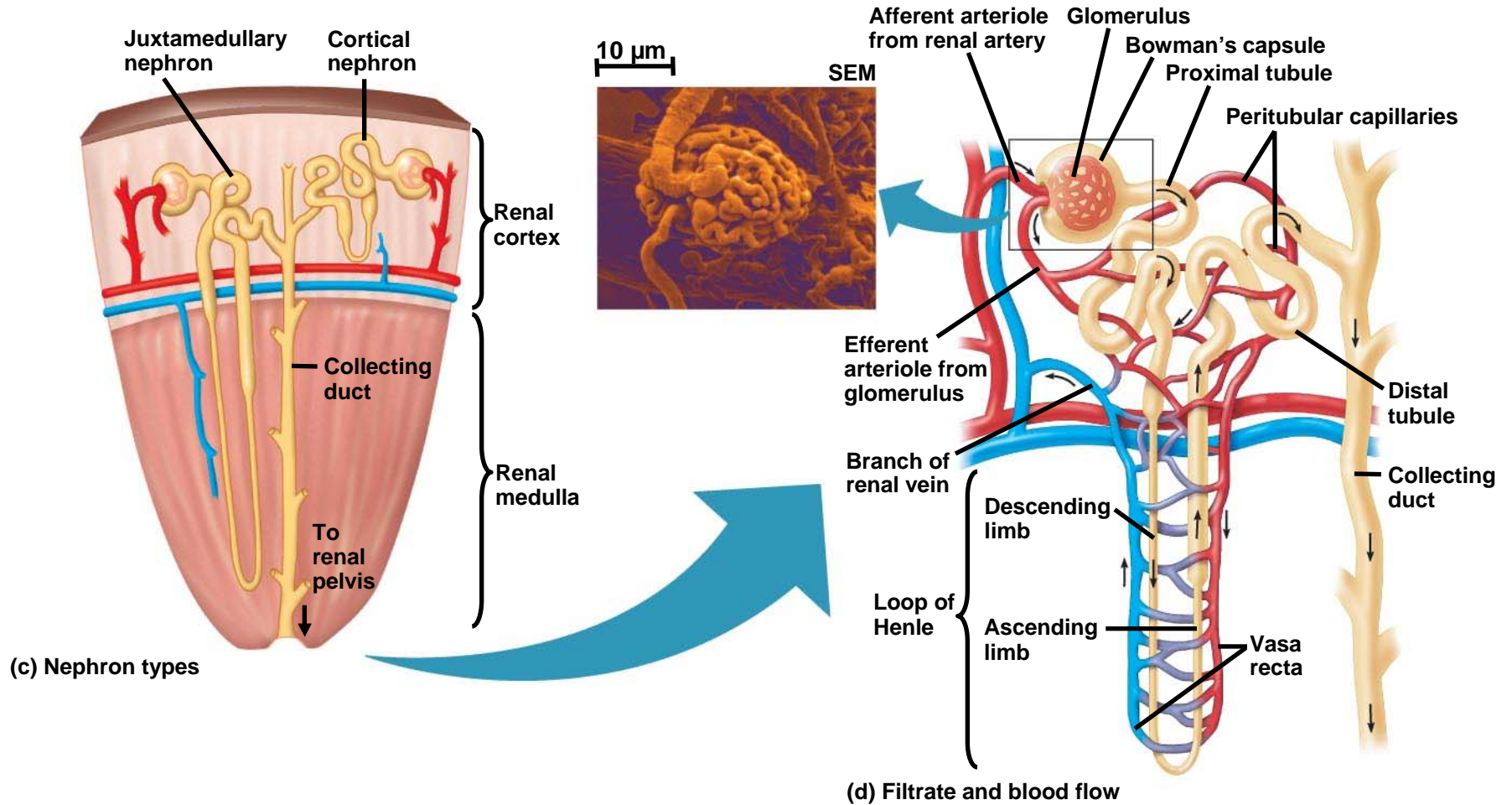
- 
- The mammalian kidney has two distinct regions: an outer **renal cortex** and an inner **renal medulla**



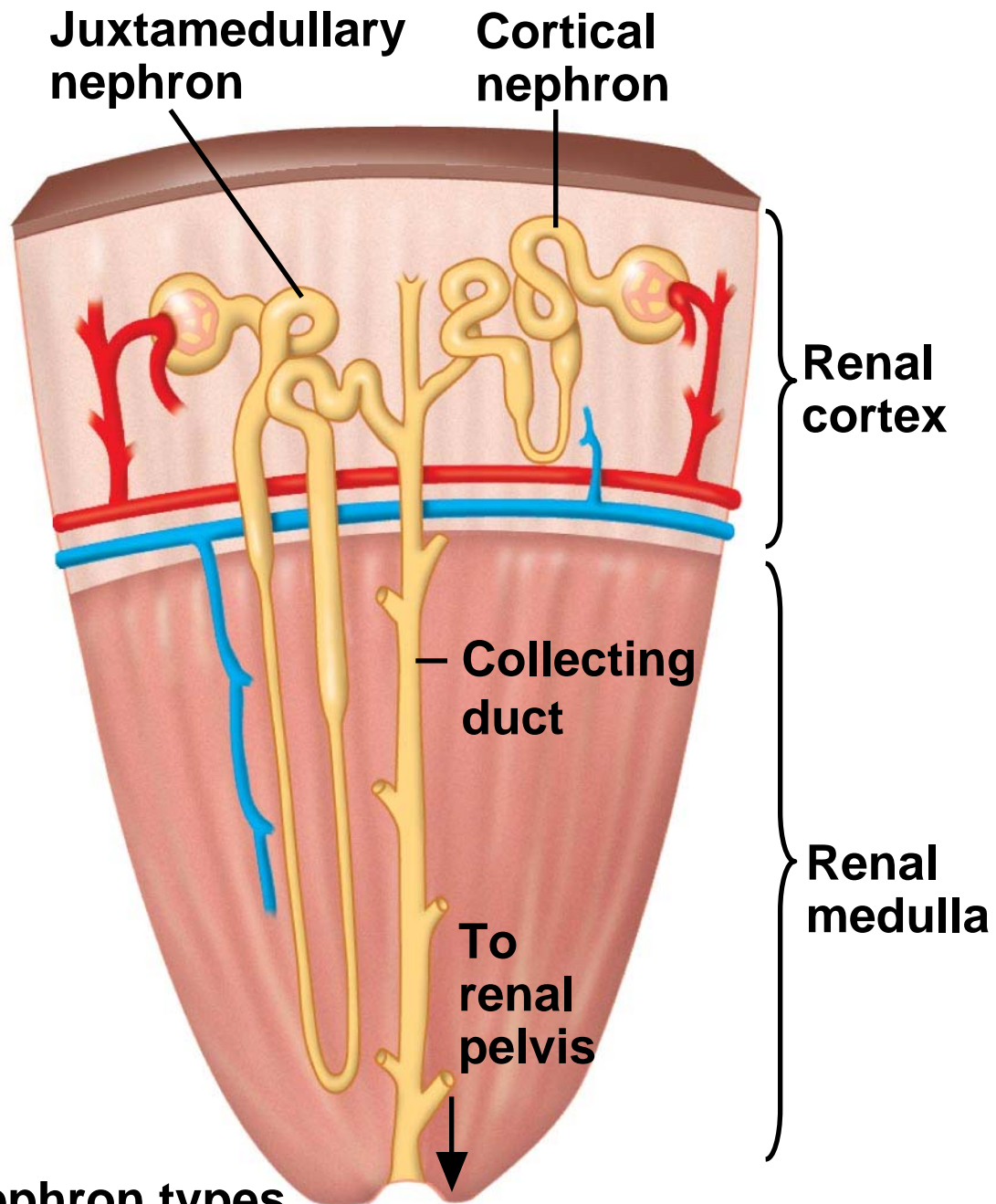
**(b) Kidney structure**



**Section of kidney** | 4 mm



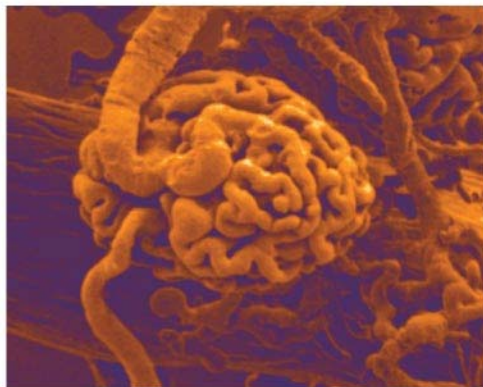
- 
- The **nephron**, the functional unit of the vertebrate kidney, consists of a single long tubule and a ball of capillaries called the **glomerulus**
  - **Bowman's capsule** surrounds and receives filtrate from the glomerulus



**(c) Nephron types**

10  $\mu\text{m}$

SEM



Afferent arteriole from renal artery

Glomerulus

Bowman's capsule

Proximal tubule

Peritubular capillaries

Efferent arteriole from glomerulus

Branch of renal vein

Descending limb

Loop of Henle

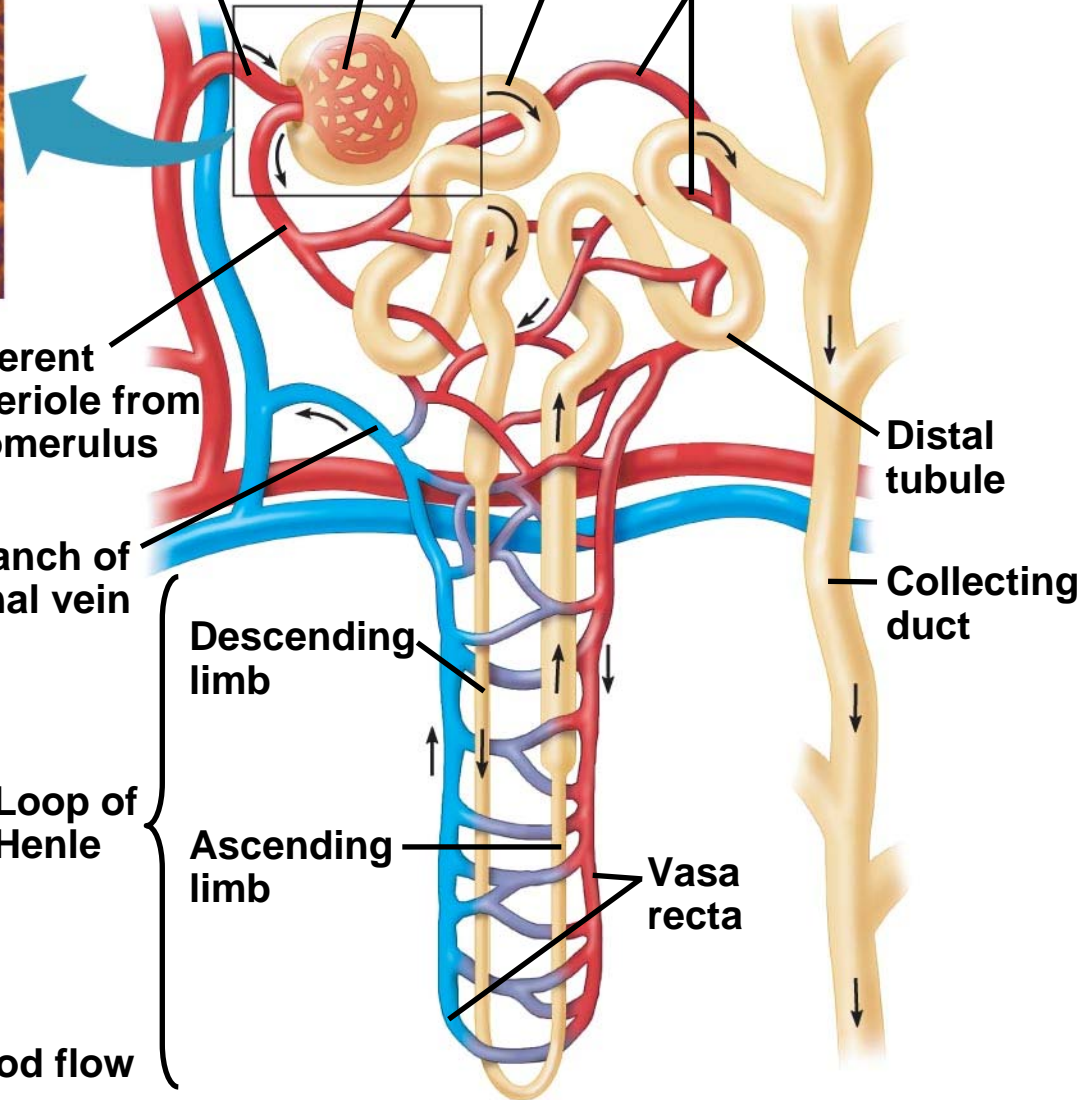
Ascending limb

Vasa recta

Distal tubule

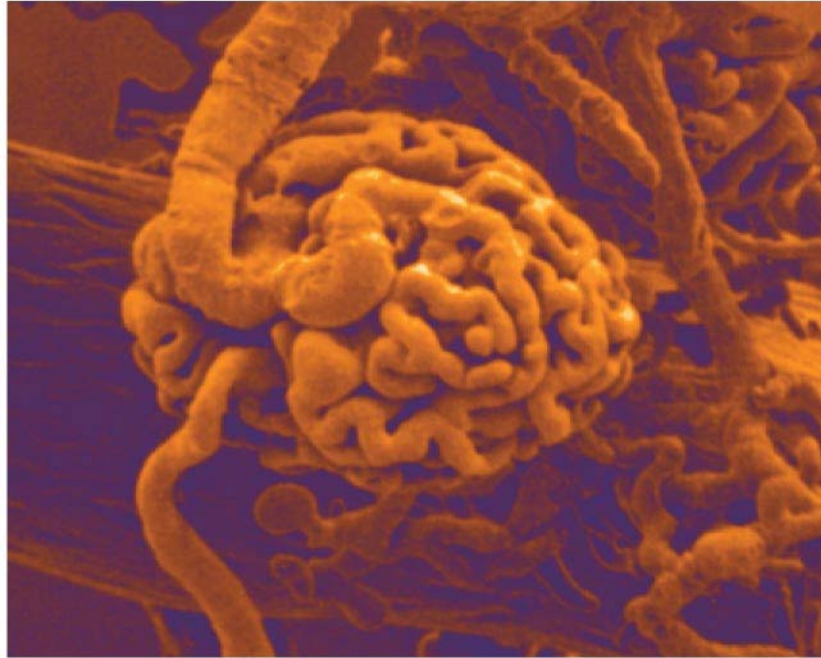
Collecting duct

(d) Filtrate and blood flow



10  $\mu\text{m}$

SEM



# *Filtration of the Blood*

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- Filtration occurs as blood pressure forces fluid from the blood in the glomerulus into the lumen of Bowman's capsule
- Filtration of small molecules is nonselective
- The filtrate contains salts, glucose, amino acids, vitamins, nitrogenous wastes, and other small molecules



# *Pathway of the Filtrate*

---

- From Bowman's capsule, the filtrate passes through three regions of the nephron: the **proximal tubule**, the **loop of Henle**, and the **distal tubule**
- Fluid from several nephrons flows into a **collecting duct**, all of which lead to the **renal pelvis**, which is drained by the ureter
- **Cortical nephrons** are confined to the renal cortex, while **juxtamedullary nephrons** have loops of Henle that descend into the renal medulla

# *Blood Vessels Associated with the Nephrons*

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- Each nephron is supplied with blood by an **afferent arteriole**, a branch of the renal artery that divides into the capillaries
- The capillaries converge as they leave the glomerulus, forming an **efferent arteriole**
- The vessels divide again, forming the **peritubular capillaries**, which surround the proximal and distal tubules

- 
- **Vasa recta** are capillaries that serve the loop of Henle
  - The vasa recta and the loop of Henle function as a countercurrent system

## Concept 44.4: The nephron is organized for stepwise processing of blood filtrate

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- The mammalian kidney conserves water by producing urine that is much more concentrated than body fluids

# From Blood Filtrate to Urine: *A Closer Look*

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## Proximal Tubule

- Reabsorption of ions, water, and nutrients takes place in the proximal tubule
- Molecules are transported actively and passively from the filtrate into the interstitial fluid and then capillaries
- Some toxic materials are secreted into the filtrate
- The filtrate volume decreases

**PLAY**

Animation: Bowman's Capsule and Proximal Tubule

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## Descending Limb of the Loop of Henle

- Reabsorption of water continues through channels formed by **aquaporin** proteins
- Movement is driven by the high osmolarity of the interstitial fluid, which is hyperosmotic to the filtrate
- The filtrate becomes increasingly concentrated

---

## Ascending Limb of the Loop of Henle

- In the ascending limb of the loop of Henle, salt but not water is able to diffuse from the tubule into the interstitial fluid
- The filtrate becomes increasingly dilute

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## Distal Tubule

- The distal tubule regulates the  $K^+$  and NaCl concentrations of body fluids
- The controlled movement of ions contributes to pH regulation

**PLAY**

Animation: Loop of Henle and Distal Tubule



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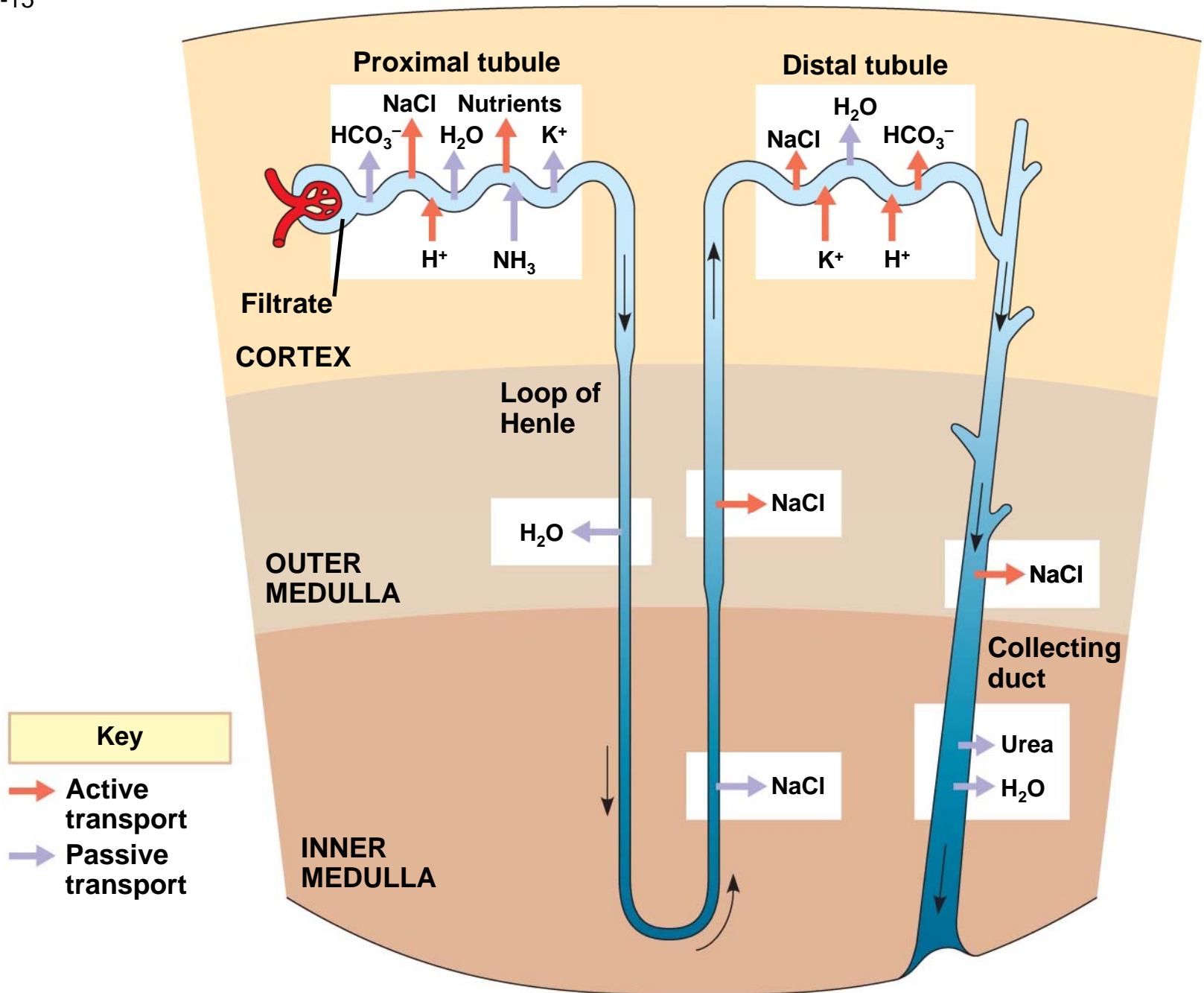
# Collecting Duct

- The collecting duct carries filtrate through the medulla to the renal pelvis
- Water is lost as well as some salt and urea, and the filtrate becomes more concentrated
- Urine is hyperosmotic to body fluids

**PLAY**

Animation: Collecting Duct

Fig. 44-15



# Solute Gradients and Water Conservation

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- Urine is much more concentrated than blood
- The cooperative action and precise arrangement of the loops of Henle and collecting ducts are largely responsible for the osmotic gradient that concentrates the urine
- NaCl and urea contribute to the osmolarity of the interstitial fluid, which causes reabsorption of water in the kidney and concentrates the urine

# *The Two-Solute Model*

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- In the proximal tubule, filtrate volume decreases, but its osmolarity remains the same
- The **countercurrent multiplier system** involving the loop of Henle maintains a high salt concentration in the kidney
- This system allows the vasa recta to supply the kidney with nutrients, without interfering with the osmolarity gradient
- Considerable energy is expended to maintain the osmotic gradient between the medulla and cortex

- 
- The collecting duct conducts filtrate through the osmolarity gradient, and more water exits the filtrate by osmosis
  - Urea diffuses out of the collecting duct as it traverses the inner medulla
  - Urea and NaCl form the osmotic gradient that enables the kidney to produce urine that is hyperosmotic to the blood

Fig. 44-16-1

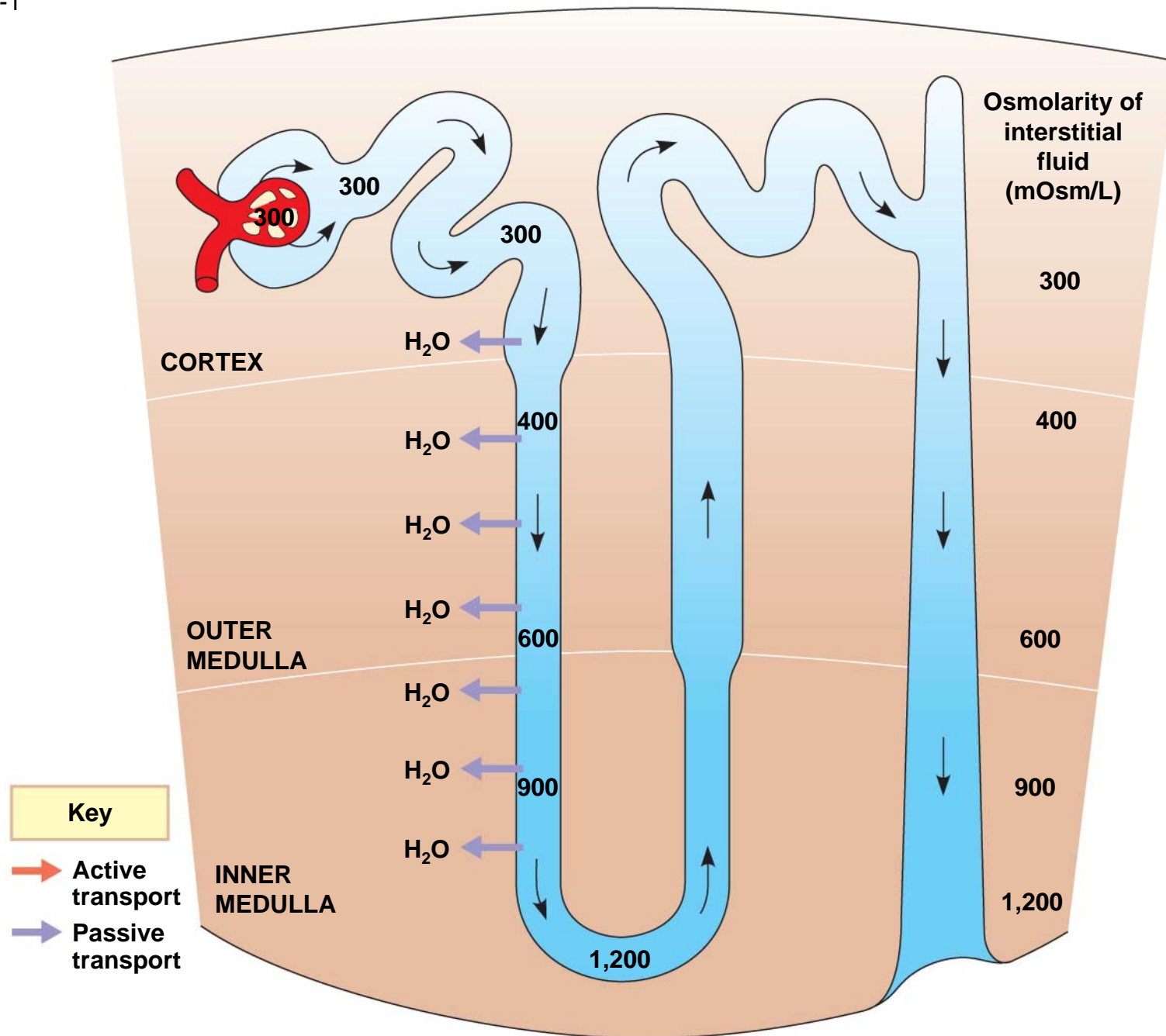


Fig. 44-16-2

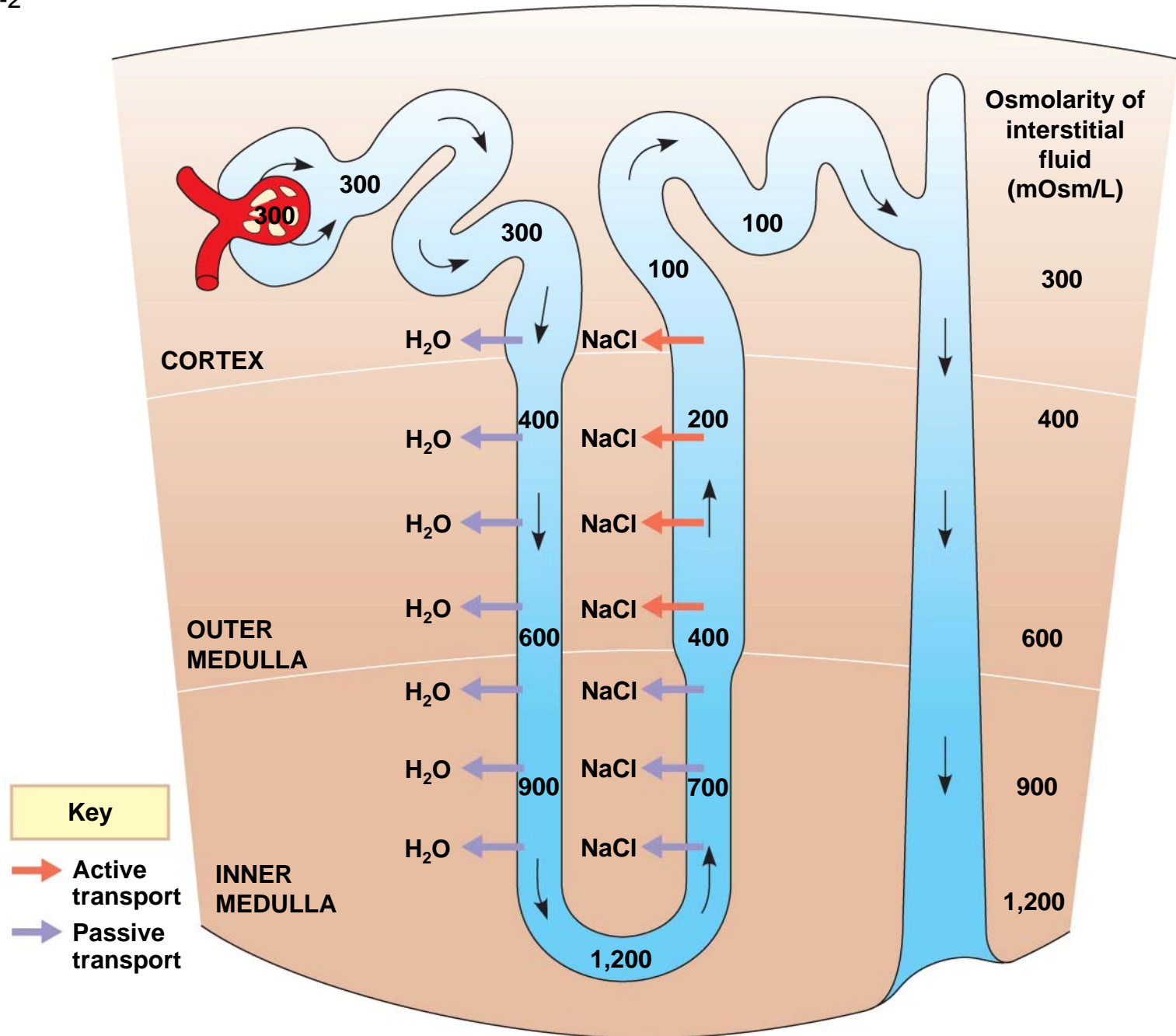
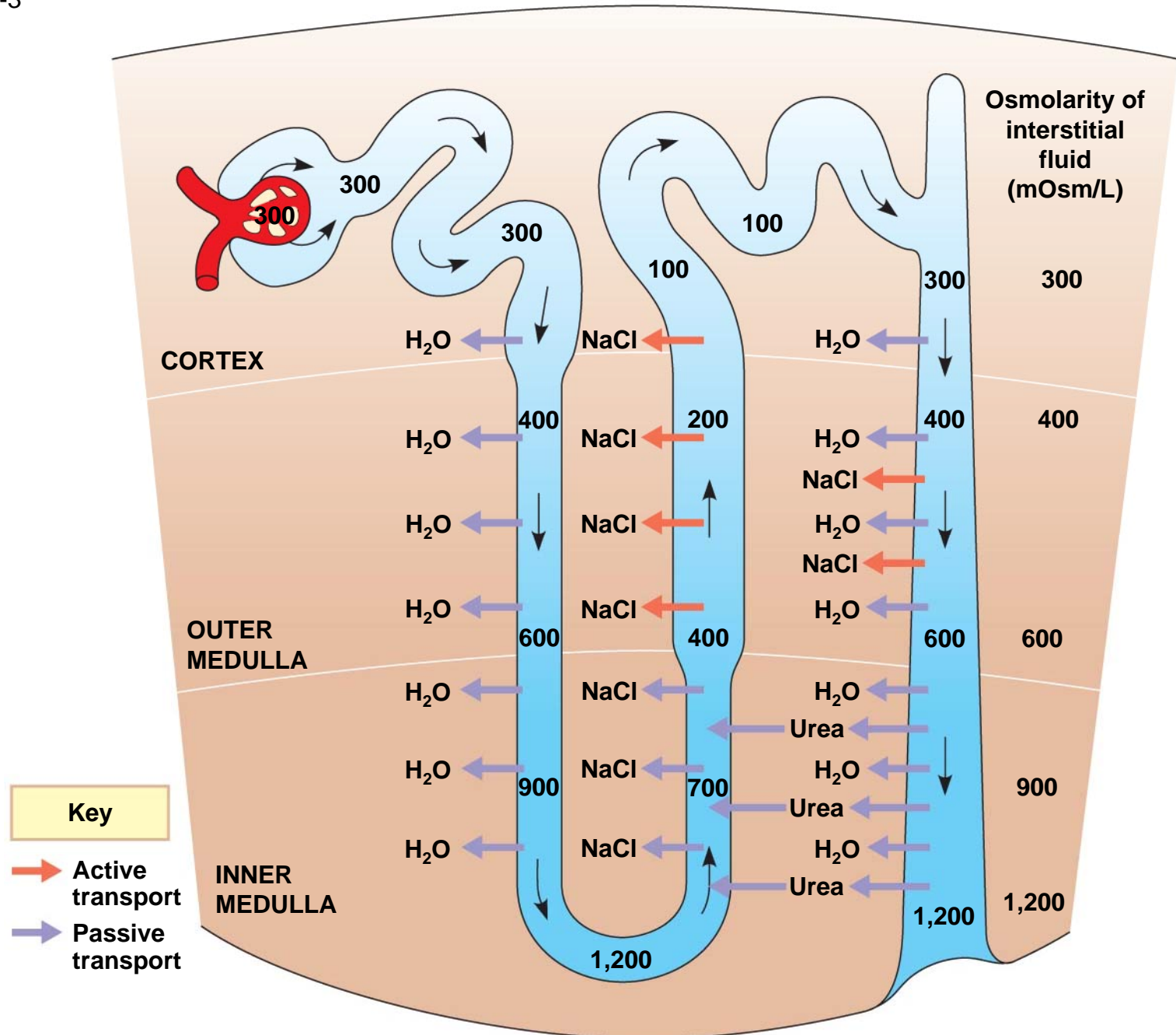


Fig. 44-16-3





# Adaptations of the Vertebrate Kidney to Diverse Environments

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- The form and function of nephrons in various vertebrate classes are related to requirements for osmoregulation in the animal's habitat

# *Mammals*

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- The juxtamedullary nephron contributes to water conservation in terrestrial animals
- Mammals that inhabit dry environments have long loops of Henle, while those in fresh water have relatively short loops

# *Birds and Other Reptiles*

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- Birds have shorter loops of Henle but conserve water by excreting uric acid instead of urea
- Other reptiles have only cortical nephrons but also excrete nitrogenous waste as uric acid

Fig. 44-17



# *Freshwater Fishes and Amphibians*

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- Freshwater fishes conserve salt in their distal tubules and excrete large volumes of dilute urine
- Kidney function in amphibians is similar to freshwater fishes
- Amphibians conserve water on land by reabsorbing water from the urinary bladder

# *Marine Bony Fishes*

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- Marine bony fishes are hypoosmotic compared with their environment and excrete very little urine

## Concept 44.5: Hormonal circuits link kidney function, water balance, and blood pressure

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- Mammals control the volume and osmolarity of urine
- The kidneys of the South American vampire bat can produce either very dilute or very concentrated urine
- This allows the bats to reduce their body weight rapidly or digest large amounts of protein while conserving water

Fig. 44-18





# Antidiuretic Hormone

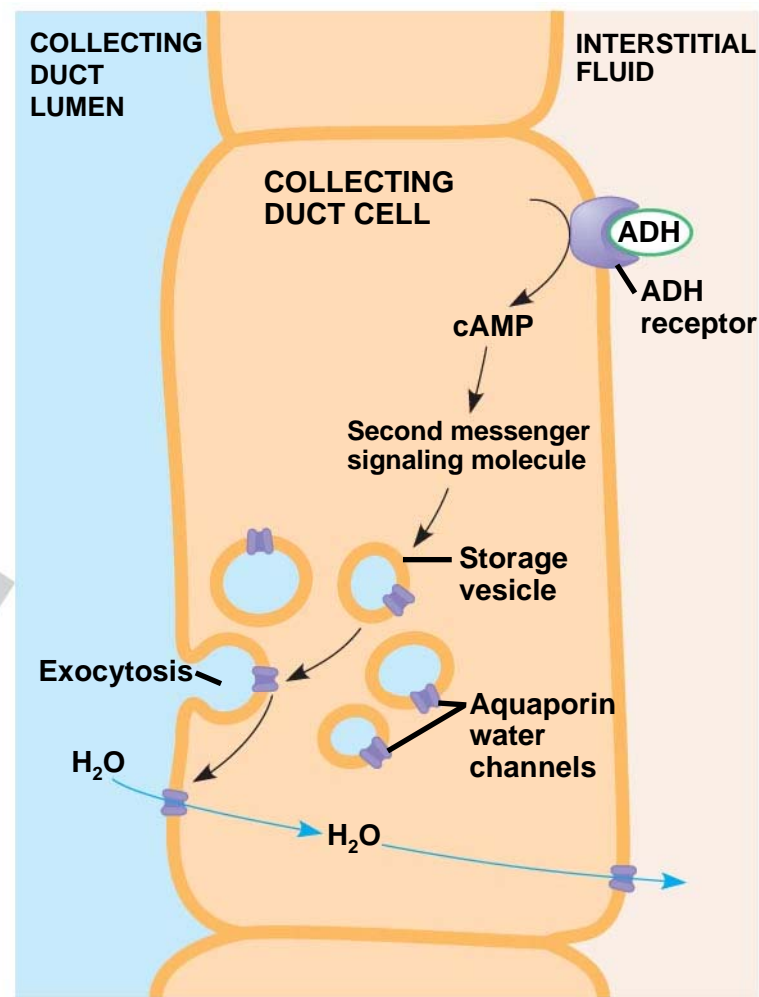
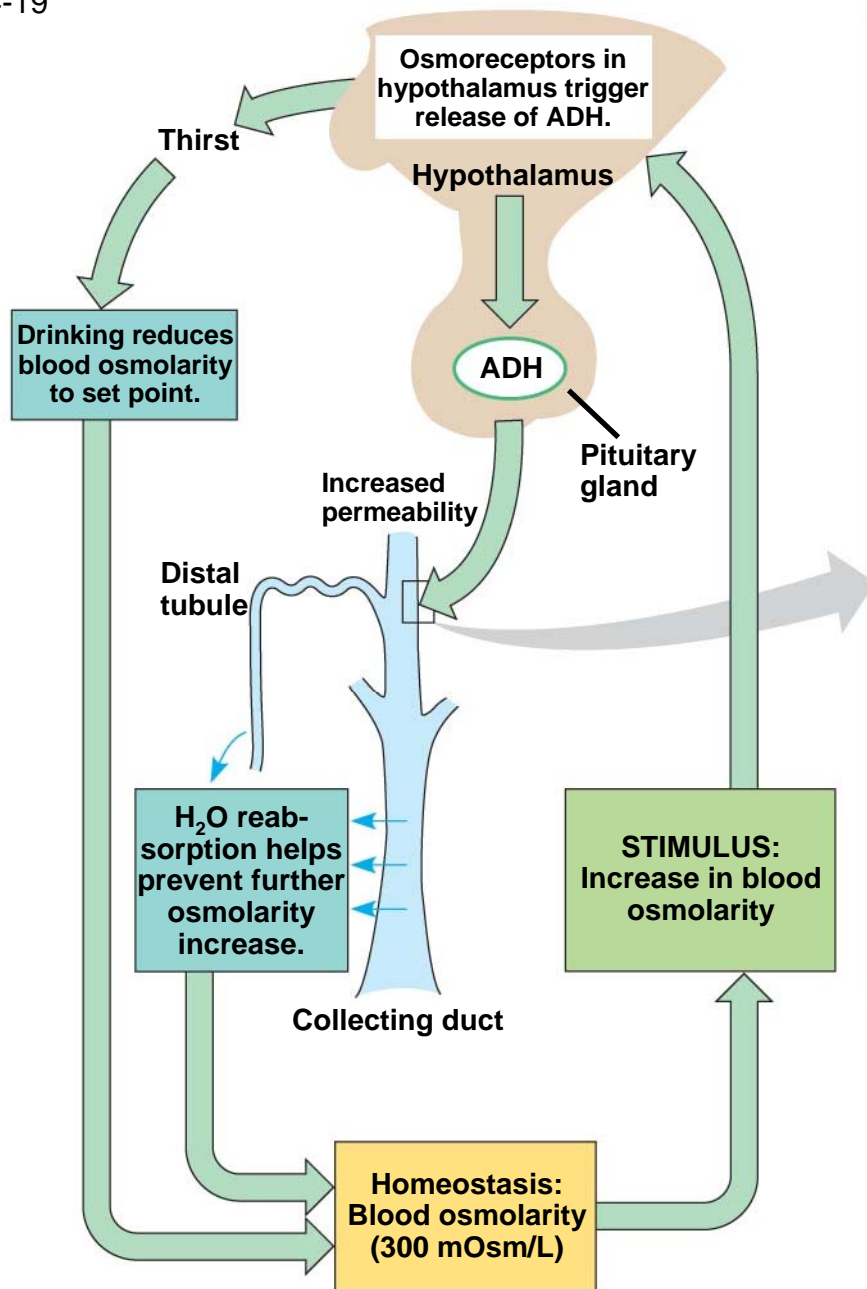
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- The osmolarity of the urine is regulated by nervous and hormonal control of water and salt reabsorption in the kidneys
- **Antidiuretic hormone (ADH)** increases water reabsorption in the distal tubules and collecting ducts of the kidney
- An increase in osmolarity triggers the release of ADH, which helps to conserve water

**PLAY**

Animation: Effect of ADH

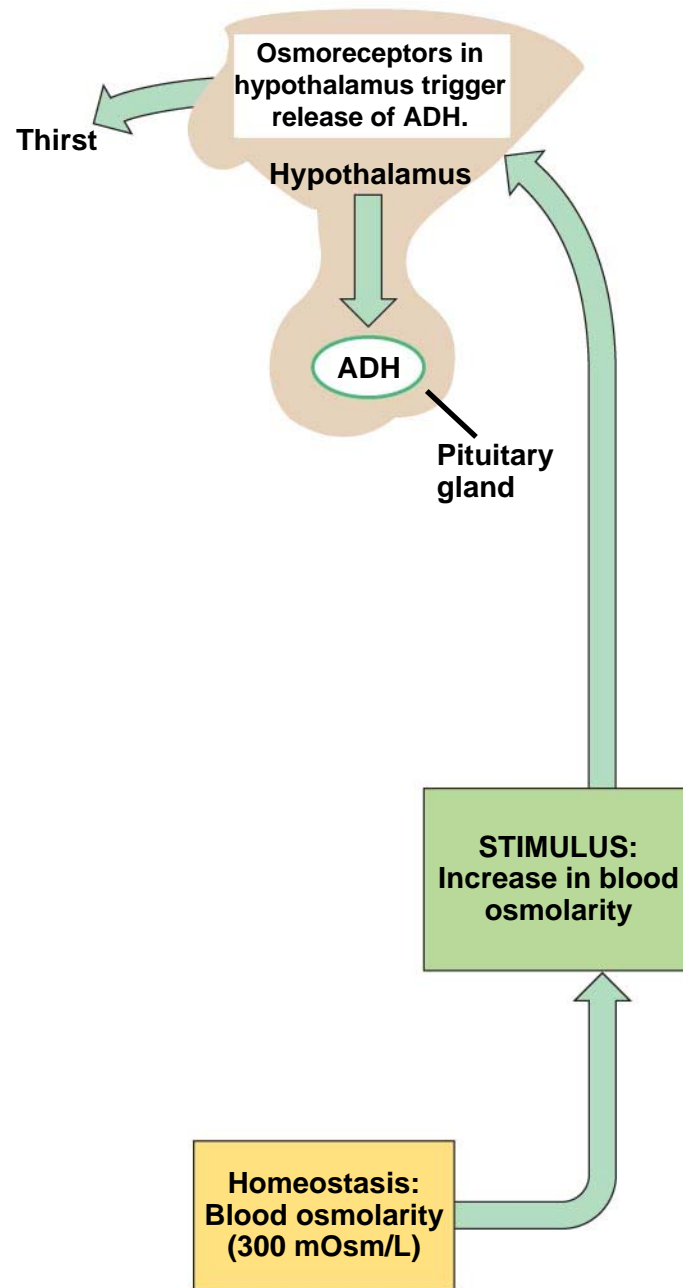
Fig. 44-19



(b)

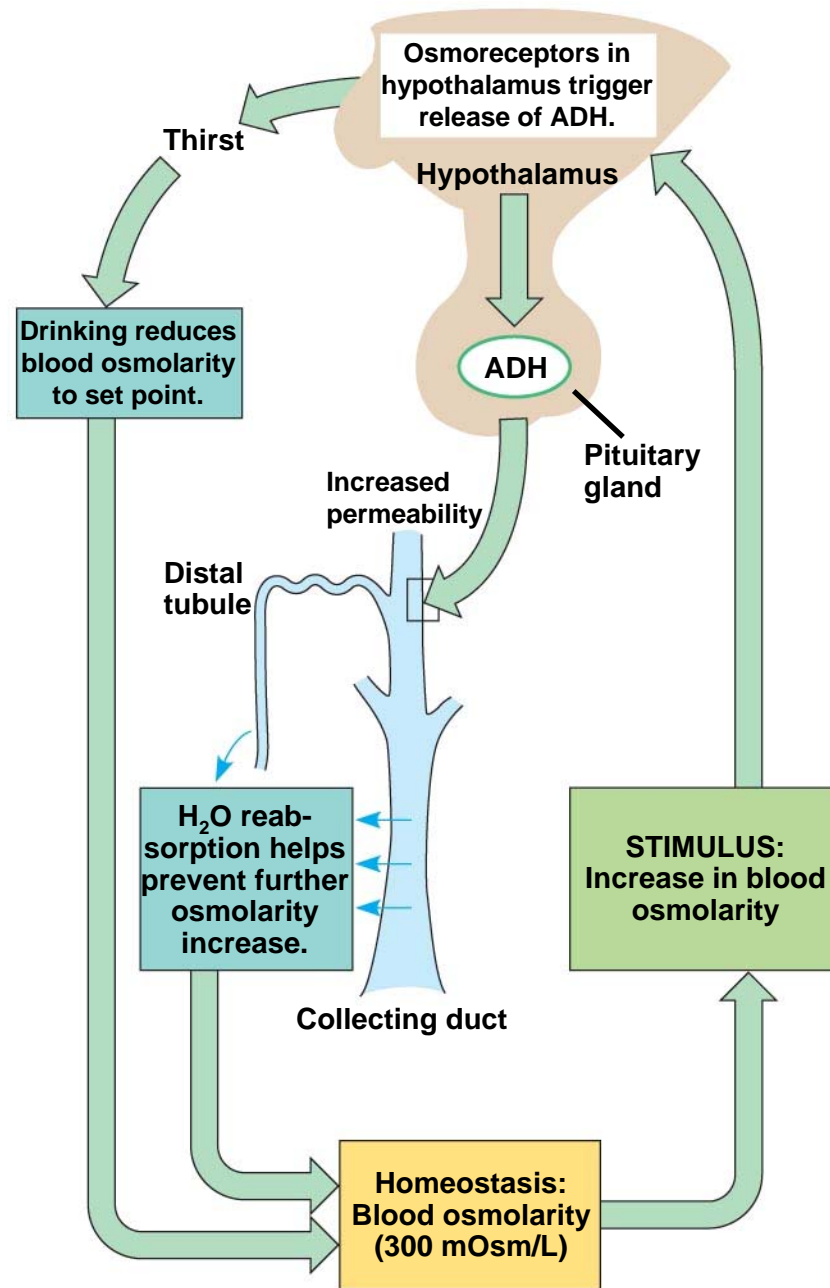
(a)

Fig. 44-19a-1



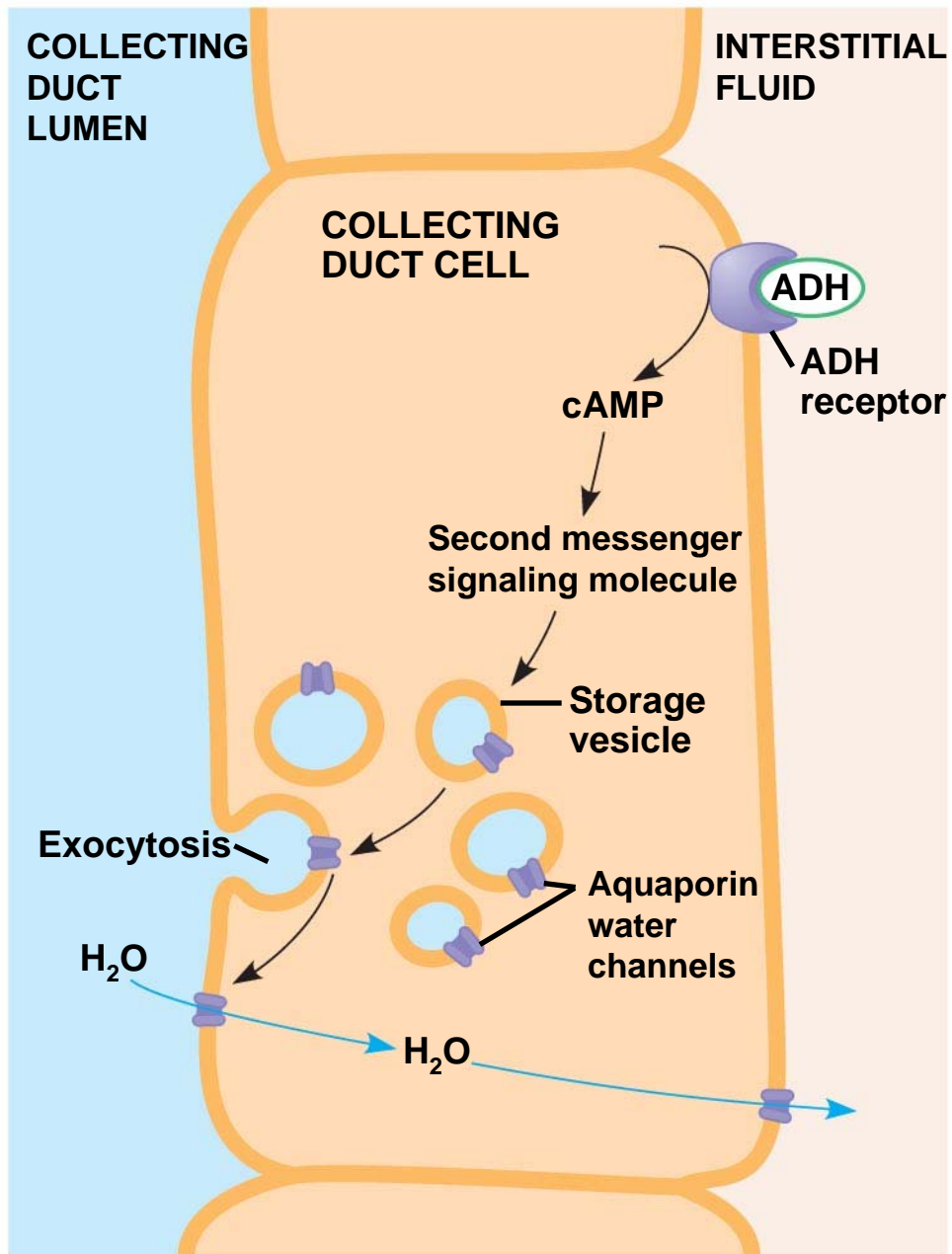
(a)

Fig. 44-19a-2



(a)

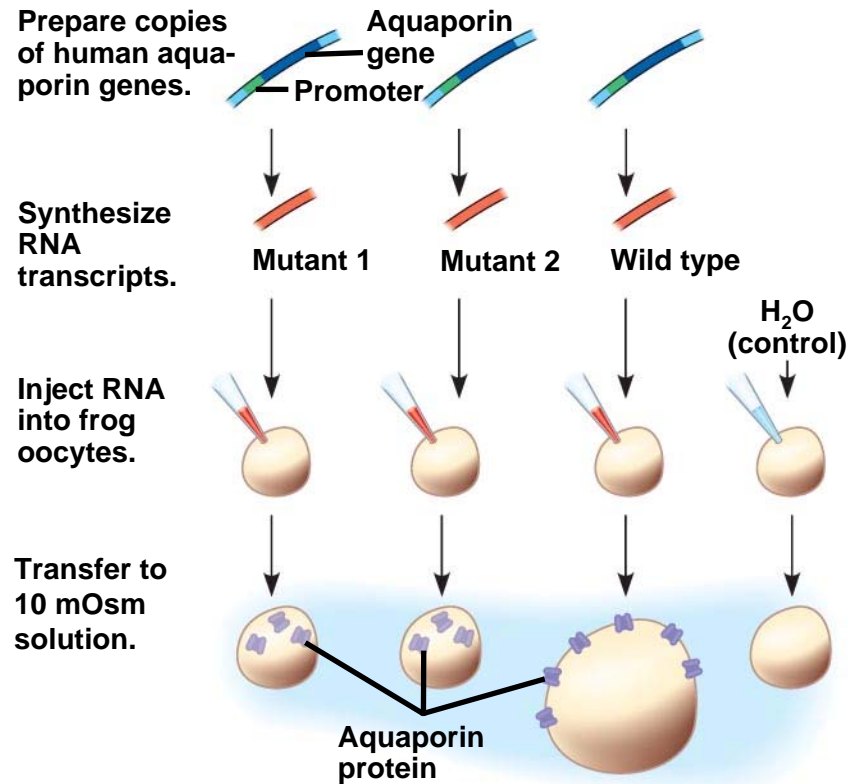
Fig. 44-19b



(b)

- 
- Mutation in ADH production causes severe dehydration and results in diabetes insipidus
  - Alcohol is a diuretic as it inhibits the release of ADH

## EXPERIMENT



## RESULTS

Injected RNA	Permeability ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ )
Wild-type aquaporin	196
None	20
Aquaporin mutant 1	17
Aquaporin mutant 2	18

## EXPERIMENT

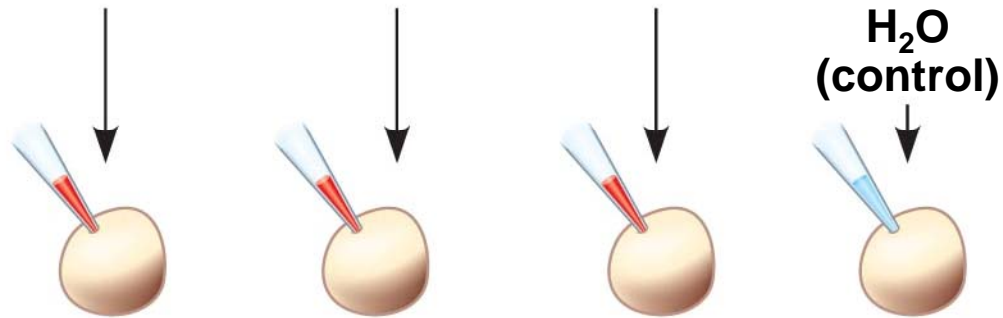
Prepare copies of human aquaporin genes.



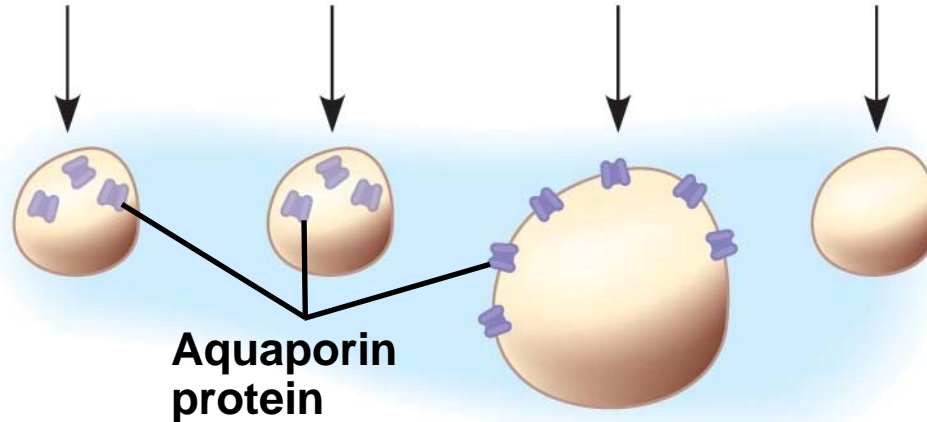
Synthesize RNA transcripts.



Inject RNA into frog oocytes.



Transfer to 10 mOsm solution.





## RESULTS

<b>Injected RNA</b>	<b>Permeability (<math>\mu\text{m/s}</math>)</b>
<b>Wild-type aquaporin</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Aquaporin mutant 1</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Aquaporin mutant 2</b>	<b>18</b>

# The Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System

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- The **renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS)** is part of a complex feedback circuit that functions in homeostasis
- A drop in blood pressure near the glomerulus causes the **juxtaglomerular apparatus (JGA)** to release the enzyme renin
- Renin triggers the formation of the peptide **angiotensin II**

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- Angiotensin II

- Raises blood pressure and decreases blood flow to the kidneys
- Stimulates the release of the hormone **aldosterone**, which increases blood volume and pressure

Fig. 44-21-1

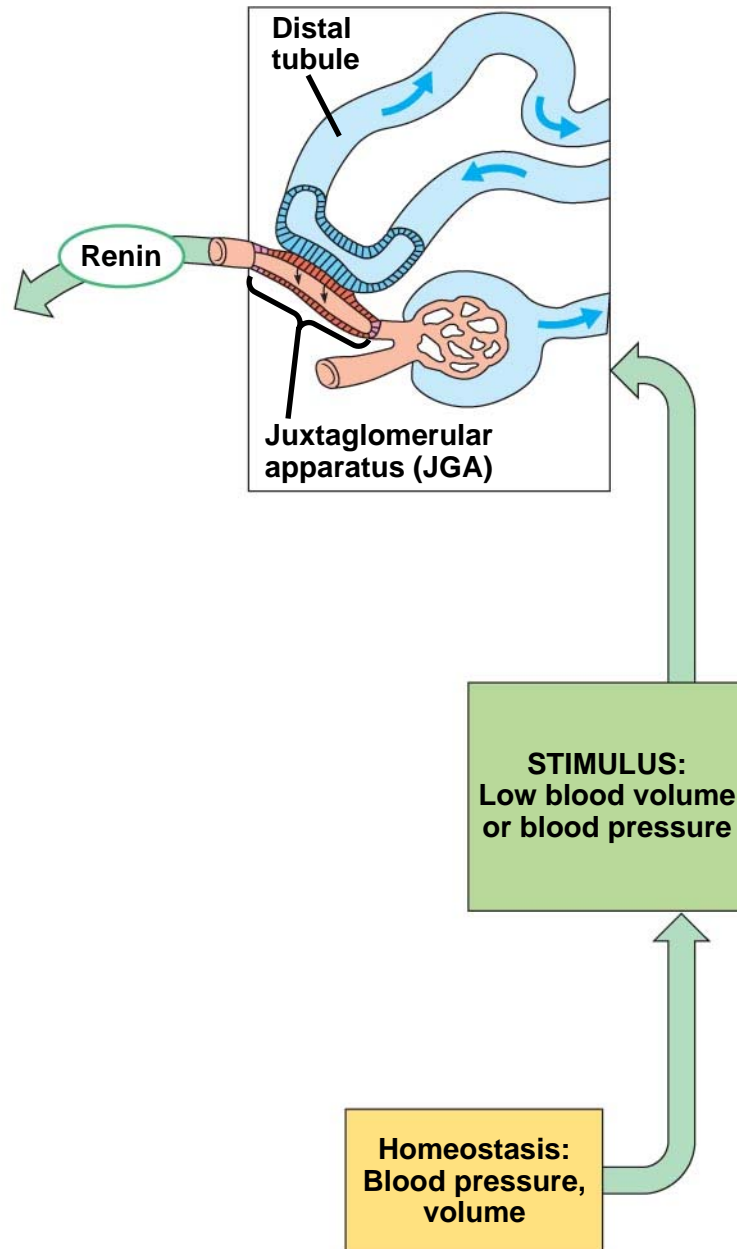


Fig. 44-21-2

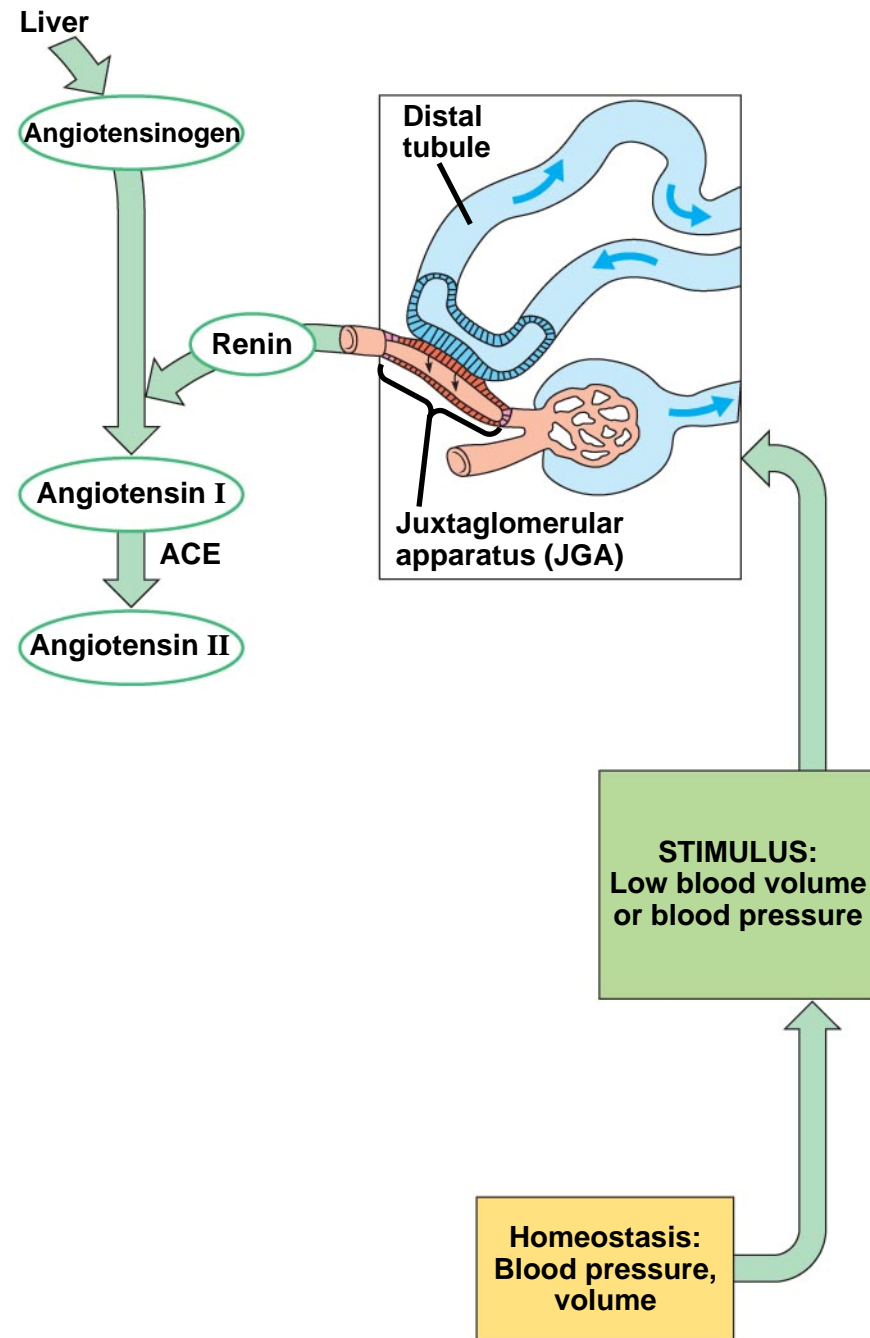
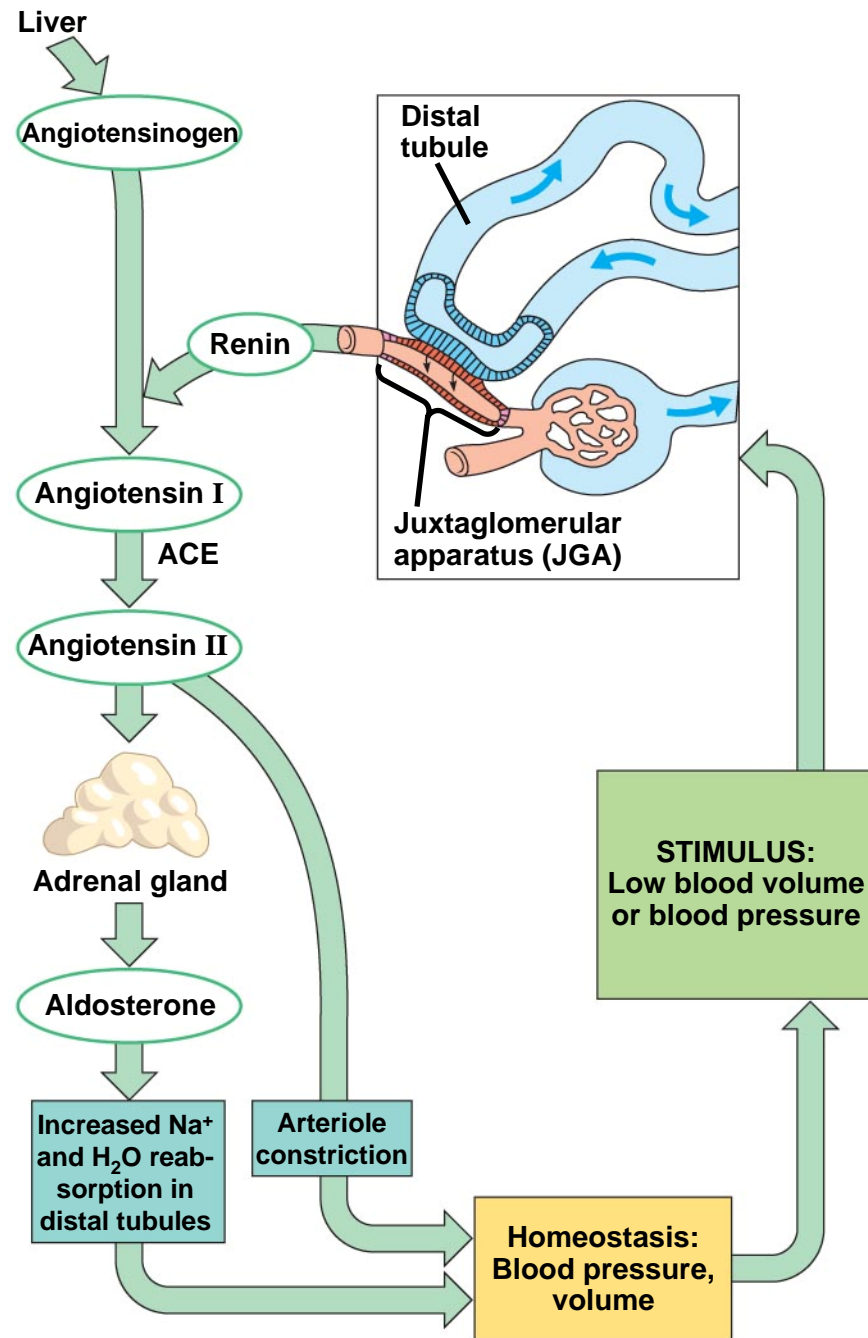


Fig. 44-21-3



# Homeostatic Regulation of the Kidney

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- ADH and RAAS both increase water reabsorption, but only RAAS will respond to a decrease in blood volume
- Another hormone, **atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP)**, opposes the RAAS
- ANP is released in response to an increase in blood volume and pressure and inhibits the release of renin

Fig. 44-UN1

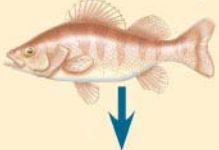





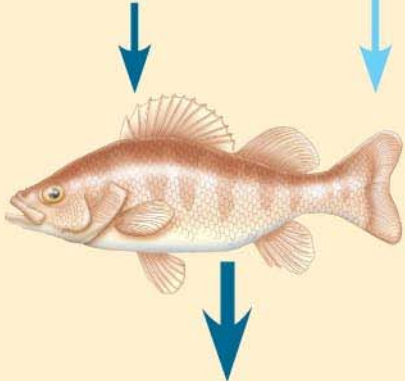

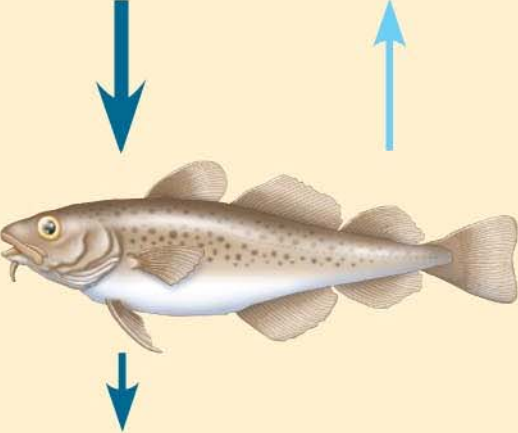

Animal	Inflow/Outflow	Urine
<p><b>Freshwater fish</b></p>	<p>Does not drink water Salt in H<sub>2</sub>O in (active transport by gills)</p>  <p>Salt out</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Large volume of urine</li> <li>▶ Urine is less concentrated than body fluids</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bony marine fish</b></p>	<p>Drinks water Salt in H<sub>2</sub>O out</p>  <p>Salt out (active transport by gills)</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Small volume of urine</li> <li>▶ Urine is slightly less concentrated than body fluids</li> </ul>
<p><b>Terrestrial vertebrate</b></p>	<p>Drinks water Salt in (by mouth)</p>  <p>H<sub>2</sub>O and salt out</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Moderate volume of urine</li> <li>▶ Urine is more concentrated than body fluids</li> </ul>



Fig. 44-UN1a

Animal	Inflow/Outflow	Urine
<b>Freshwater fish</b>	<p><b>Does not drink water</b> <b>Salt in</b>      <b>H<sub>2</sub>O in</b> <b>(active trans- port by gills)</b></p>  <p><b>Salt out</b></p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ <b>Large volume of urine</b></li><li>▶ <b>Urine is less concentrated than body fluids</b></li></ul>

Animal	Inflow/Outflow	Urine
<b>Bony marine fish</b>	<p><b>Drinks water</b> <b>Salt in H<sub>2</sub>O out</b></p>  <p><b>Salt out (active transport by gills)</b></p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ <b>Small volume of urine</b></li><li>▶ <b>Urine is slightly less concentrated than body fluids</b></li></ul>



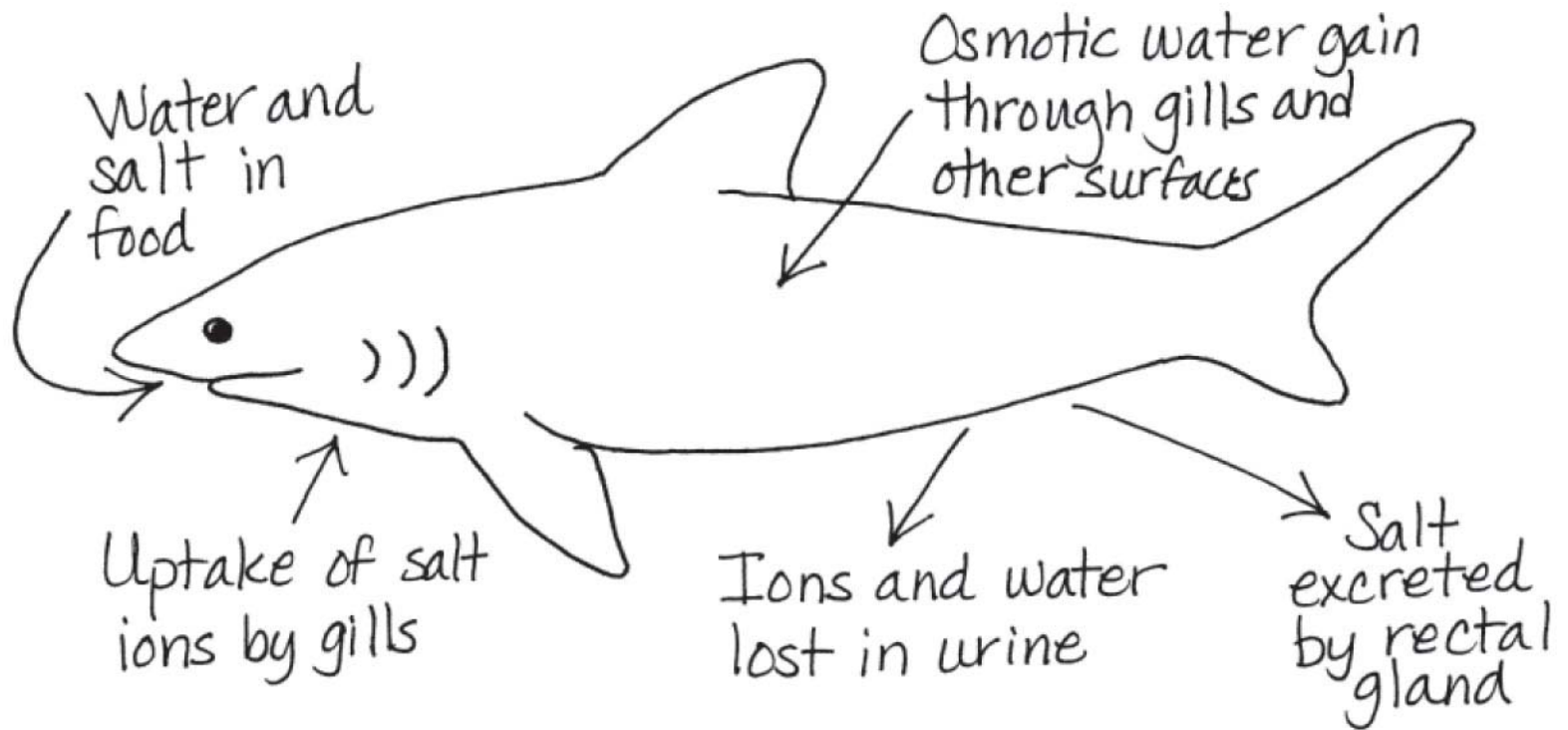
<b>Animal</b>	<b>Inflow/Outflow</b>	<b>Urine</b>
<b>Terrestrial vertebrate</b>	<p><b>Drinks water</b> <b>Salt in</b> <b>(by mouth)</b></p>  <p><b>H<sub>2</sub>O and salt out</b></p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ <b>Moderate volume of urine</b></li><li>▶ <b>Urine is more concentrated than body fluids</b></li></ul>

Fig. 44-UN2



## You should now be able to:

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1. Distinguish between the following terms: isoosmotic, hyperosmotic, and hypoosmotic; osmoregulators and osmoconformers; stenohaline and euryhaline animals
2. Define osmoregulation, excretion, anhydrobiosis
3. Compare the osmoregulatory challenges of freshwater and marine animals
4. Describe some of the factors that affect the energetic cost of osmoregulation

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5. Describe and compare the protonephridial, metanephridial, and Malpighian tubule excretory systems
  6. Using a diagram, identify and describe the function of each region of the nephron
  7. Explain how the loop of Henle enhances water conservation
  8. Describe the nervous and hormonal controls involved in the regulation of kidney function