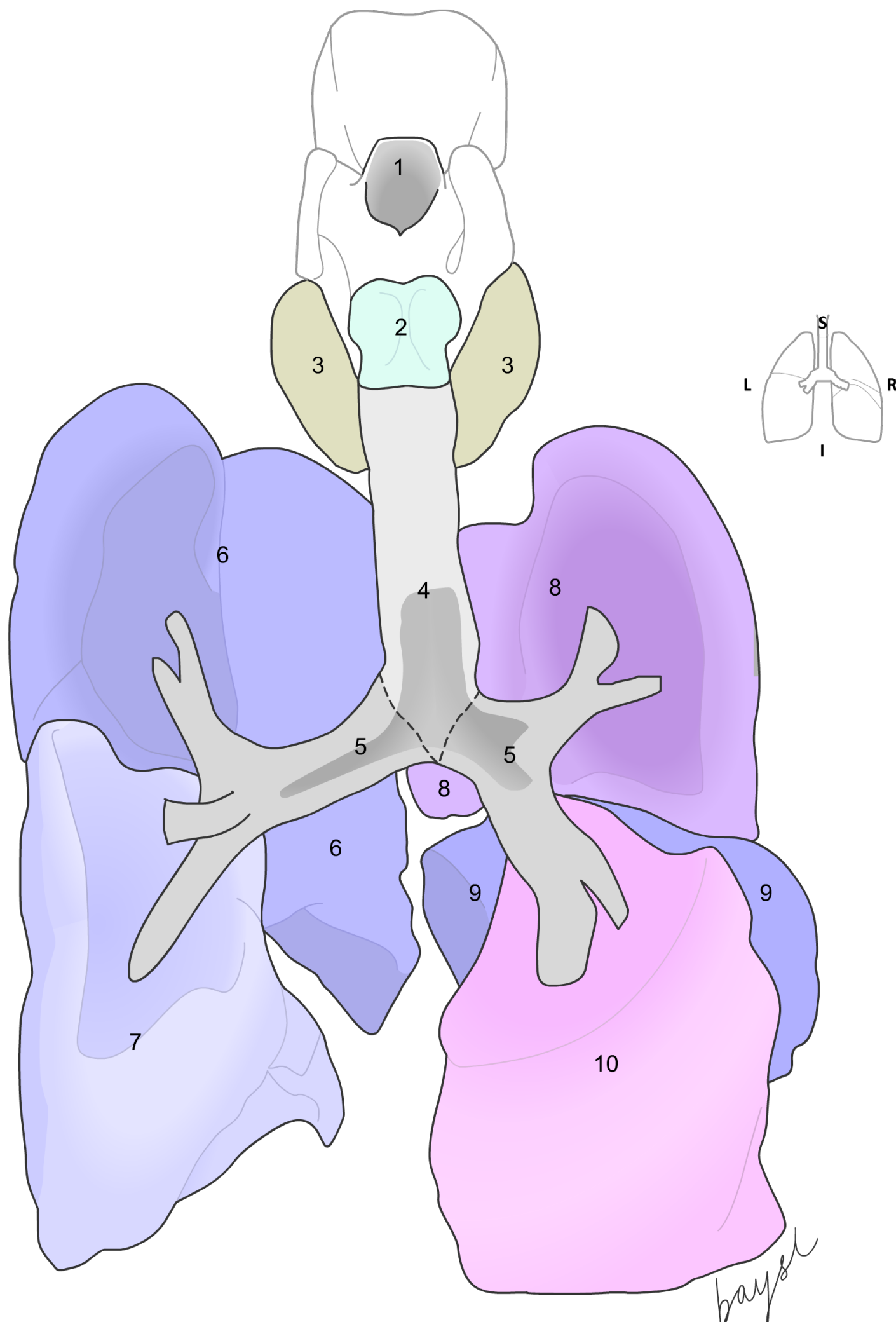


RESPIRATORY SYSTEM (POSTERIOR VIEW OF THE LUNGS)



Posterior view of the lung, showing the partially cut lobes, fissures and tracheo-bronchial tree.

- | | | | |
|------|----|----------------------|-------------------|
| | 1. | Epiglottis | |
| | 2. | Cricoid cartilage | |
| | 3. | Thyroid gland | |
| | 4. | Trachea | |
| | 5. | Left & right Bronchi | |
| Lung | } | 6. | Left upper lobe |
| | | 7. | Left lower lobe |
| | | 8. | Right upper lobe |
| | | 9. | Right middle lobe |
| | | 10. | Right lower lobe |

The respiratory systems consists of a pair of lungs and each consists of:

Lobes – (Right lung) 3 lobes: superior, middle and inferior lobes. (Left lung) 2 lobes: superior and inferior lobes.

Borders – anterior, inferior, and posterior borders

Surfaces – costal, mediastinal, and diaphragmatic

Apex – superior region of each lung which projects into the floor of the neck

Base – inferior region of each lung which projects towards the diaphragm

The bronchial tree commences with the trachea which later separates into the right and left bronchus. The bronchi enter the root of the lung and provide the passage for air to reach the alveoli in the substance of the lungs.

The right lung is composed of three lobes, superior, middle, and inferior, which are separated by the oblique and horizontal fissures.

The left lung is composed of two lobes, superior and inferior, and they are separated by the oblique fissure.

CLINICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Pulmonary embolism – this may occur in the event that the pulmonary arteries get clogged. When the pulmonary arteries get clogged, lung perfusion rate might decrease which could in turn result in lower levels of blood oxygenation. A patient can be tested to rule out a pulmonary embolism through a computer tomography (CT) scan of the arteries in the lungs.

QUESTION(S)

- Describe the path of oxygen from the external environment through the respiratory tract to the alveoli of the lungs.
- Discuss the anatomical differences between the right and left lungs.