

Name _____

The Fantastic Excretory Ensemble

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. If someone's kidneys are not functioning correctly, waste products accumulating in their bloodstream could lead to a condition called kidney failure. This can result in symptoms like fatigue, swelling, high blood pressure, and even life-threatening complications if left untreated.
2. The skin plays a role in waste removal by releasing sweat, which contains excess salts and a small amount of waste products. This process helps maintain the body's internal balance by regulating temperature and eliminating some waste materials.
3. The excretory system contributes to the regulation of blood pressure by adjusting blood volume. When excess water is removed by the kidneys, it reduces blood volume, leading to lower blood pressure. This regulation is important for preventing high blood pressure, which can increase the risk of heart disease and stroke.
4. If the excretory system fails to maintain the body's acid-base balance, it can lead to conditions like acidosis (too much acidity) or alkalosis (excess alkalinity), which can disrupt bodily functions. Symptoms may include weakness, confusion, and breathing difficulties.

