

Name _____

Guardians of Health: Organs in the Human Immune System

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The thymus gland trains and matures T cells by exposing them to different antigens and selecting those that can recognize and respond to specific pathogens.
2. Lymph nodes help the immune system respond to infections by filtering lymph fluid, trapping and destroying pathogens, and activating immune cells to mount a defense.
3. The tonsils and adenoids are considered part of the body's first line of defense because they are located at the entry points of pathogens and help prevent infections from entering further into the body.
4. If the bone marrow is not functioning properly, it can lead to a decrease in the production of white blood cells, leaving the body more susceptible to infections and diseases.

