What Is the Structure and Function Of Lymphoid Organs?

1. Regarding the thymus gland:
   describe its basic structure and functions

   indicate the conditions which cause involution of the thymus

2. Regarding lymph nodes:
   describe their location within the body, relationship to the lymph vessels, and general function

   describe the histology of the cortex; indicate the location of follicles and B vs. T lymphocytes

   describe the histology of the medulla; indicate the location and function of medullary cords, sinuses and macrophages.

   indicate where antibodies are produced within lymph nodes; what are plasma cells?

   describe, in general terms, the supporting tissues within the nodes; what type of fibers are present?
3. Regarding the spleen:
   describe its basic structure and supporting tissues

   compare the red pulp vs. the white pulp regarding cell types present and general functions

   indicate where blood is filtered within the spleen and which cells perform this function

4. Regarding diseases of the lymphoid organs:
   Compare the causes and histological changes in lymph nodes in cases of hyperplasia vs. lymphoma (including Hodgkin's disease).

   Indicate which components of the lymphoid system are affected by AIDS and why the consequences of AIDS infection are so severe.