



TEXAS HEART<sup>®</sup> INSTITUTE

*at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital*

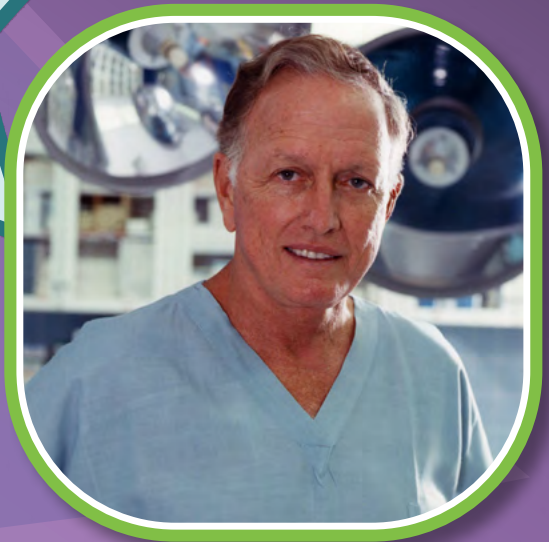
# Project Heart

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**Activities for the Classroom**

# Spotlight on...

**Dr. Denton  
A. Cooley**



# Dr. Denton A. Cooley

may never have been born if it weren't for the help of Dr. E. W. Bertner. Dr. Bertner was a family friend who helped Dr.

Cooley's mom when she was giving birth.

When Dr. Cooley attended medical school, Dr. Bertner became his mentor! Dr. Cooley really admired Dr. Bertner as a doctor and as a friend.



**Dr. Cooley at  
age 9 months.**

# He thought he would grow up to be a dentist.

Dr. Cooley's father was a dentist who helped fix people's teeth.

Dr. Cooley liked to help people, too. For a long time, he thought he would follow in

his father's footsteps and help people with their teeth and gums.



**Dr. Cooley, his father & brother in front of their Houston home.**

**During college,** Dr. Cooley took a trip to San Antonio, Texas, with a friend. During that trip, he had the chance to suture wounds in an emergency room that was overrun with patients. Dr. Cooley found the experience of sewing up a person's wounds to be thrilling! He decided that he wanted to do more than just work on people's mouths. Surgery was what he wanted to do.



**Dr. Cooley and his college friends prepare for a road trip.**

# Dr. Cooley later became one of the most famous heart surgeons in the world.

He was the first doctor in the United States to perform a successful human heart transplant and the first in the world to implant an artificial heart in a human being. He also participated in the first open heart surgery on an infant.



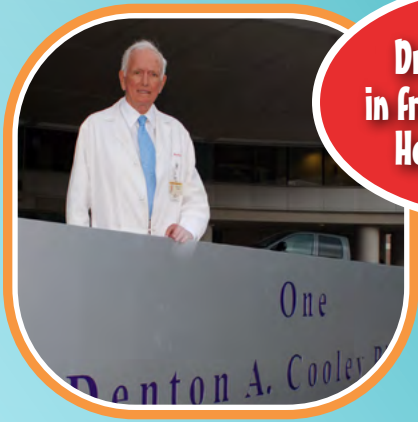
**Dr. Cooley** and his team of doctors have performed more than 100,000 open heart operations—more than any other group in the world. During his career, Dr. Cooley has invented many surgical techniques and instruments, he has won many awards, and he has written 12 books. In fact, Dr. Cooley just wrote his memoir, and he called it *100,000 Hearts*.

Dr. Cooley's memoir.



100,000  
Hearts

**In 1962,** Dr. Cooley founded the Texas Heart Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing cardiovascular disease. Today, in 2012 at age 91, he can still be found in his Texas Heart Institute office located on Bertner Avenue, named after his mentor, Dr. Bertner.



**Dr. Cooley poses  
in front of the Texas  
Heart Institute.**