

# Arteries of the Pelvis and Lower Limb (Hip, Leg and Foot)

The **common iliac arteries** divide at the sacroiliac joint into:

> **internal iliac arteries** supplying blood to the pelvic wall and organs (bladder, rectum, reproductive organs, and medial thighs.

> **external iliac arteries** supply the lower limbs and give off branches into the pelvis muscles and skin of the inferior abdominal wall. When the external iliac arteries pass under the **inguinal ligament**, they become the femoral arteries.

> **femoral arteries** run down the antero-medial thigh and give off:

> **deep femoral artery** which supplies blood to the flexors of the thigh (postero-lateral thigh) and gives off:

> **lateral and medial circumflex arteries** that encircle and nourish the head of the femur.

> **femoral arteries** turn into **popliteal arteries** as they pass through the adductor hiatus and popliteal fossa behind the knee.

> **popliteal artery** anastomose around knee and supplies blood to the knee region then splits into anterior and posterior tibial arteries.

> **anterior tibial artery** (smaller of the two) runs through the anterior compartment of the leg and supplies blood to the extensor muscles. At ankle it becomes the dorsalis pedis artery which is the **pedal pulse point**.

> **dorsalis pedis artery** supplies blood to the ankle of dorsum (top) of foot. It then becomes the:

> **arcuate artery** which gives off the **metatarsal arteries** to the digits.

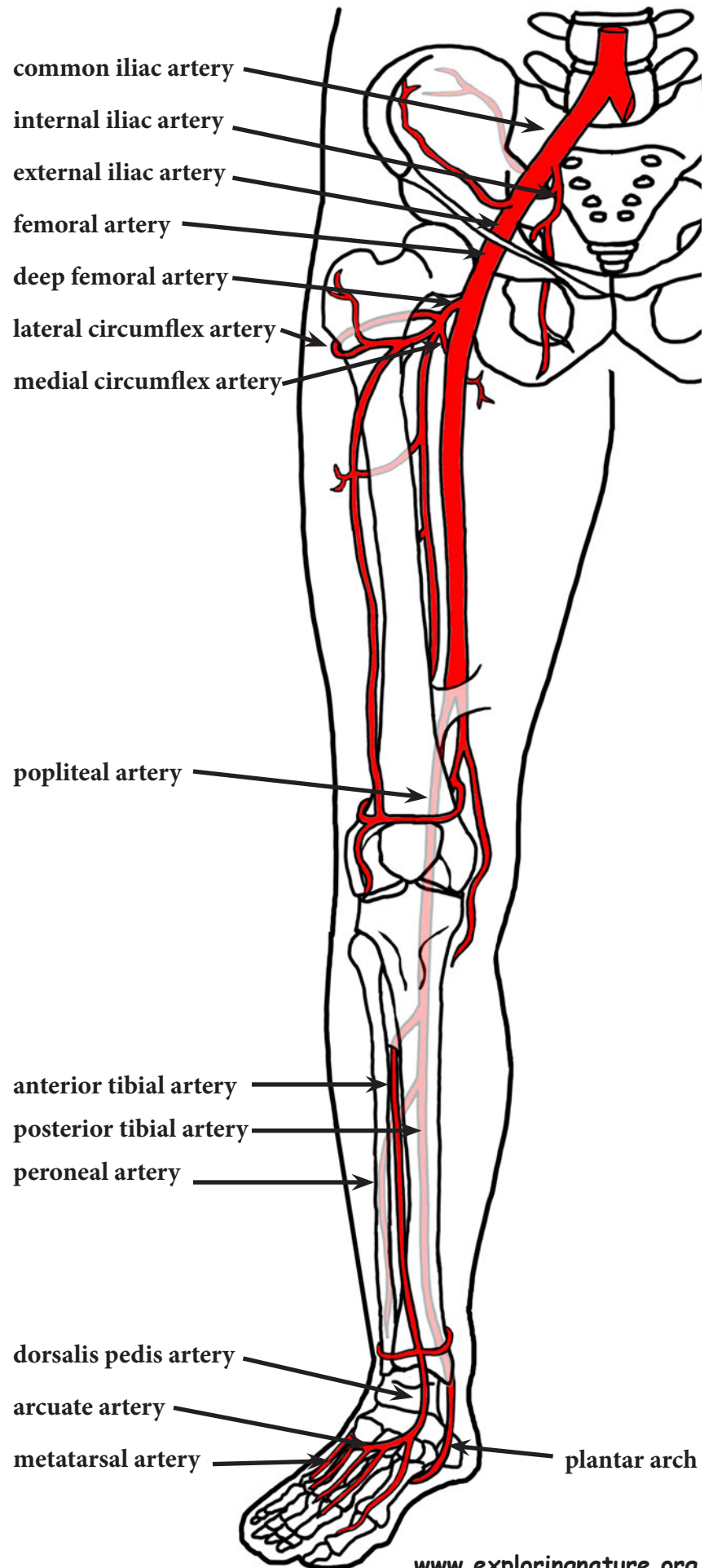
> **posterior tibial artery** (larger) runs through the posterior compartment of the leg supplying blood to the flexor muscles of the leg. It gives off the:

> **peroneal artery** that supplies blood to the lateral peroneal muscles of the leg. At the ankle it divides into:

> **lateral and medial plantar arteries** supply blood to plantar surface (bottom) of the foot and then form:

> the **plantar arch** which gives off the **digital arteries**.

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