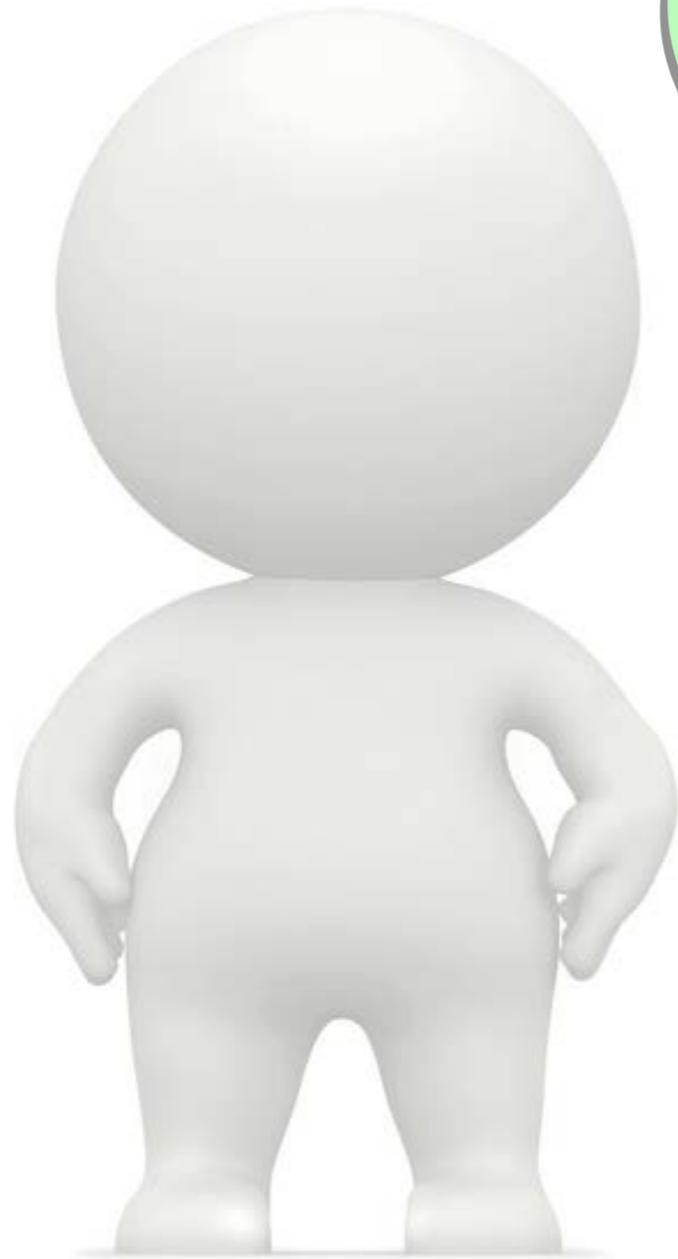


Changes and Reproduction

Learning Objective:

To know the stages in the gestation period of humans and compare them to other animals.

NEXT 



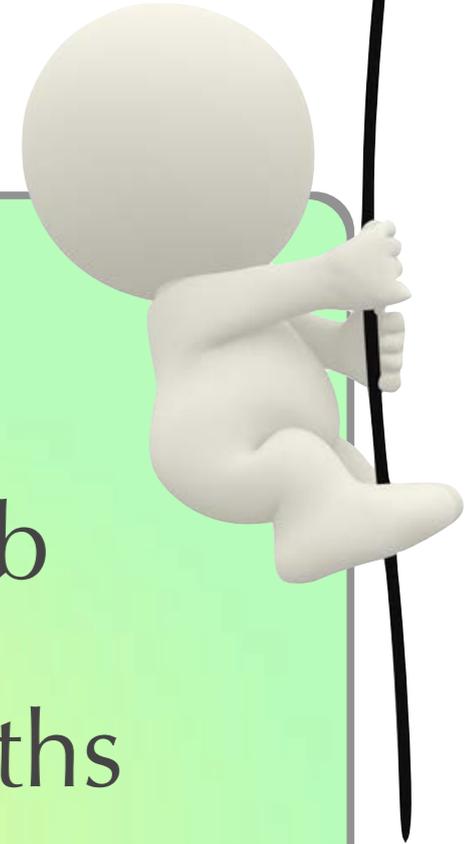
What do you know about pregnancy and how babies grow inside their mothers?

Discuss your ideas.

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NEXT

Did you think of any of these?



A new life begins

A fetus grows inside the female's womb

Pregnancy normally lasts around 9 months

The fetus gets its nutrients from its mother

It starts when a sperm cell and an egg cell combine

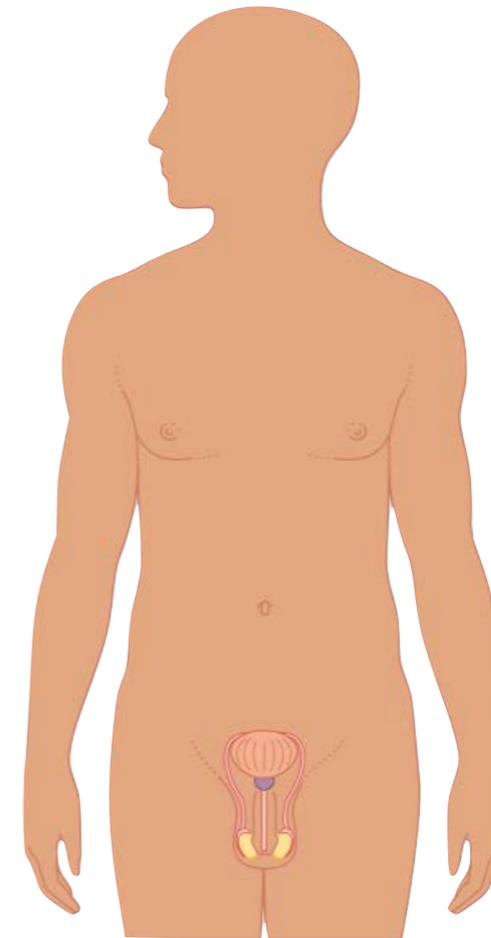
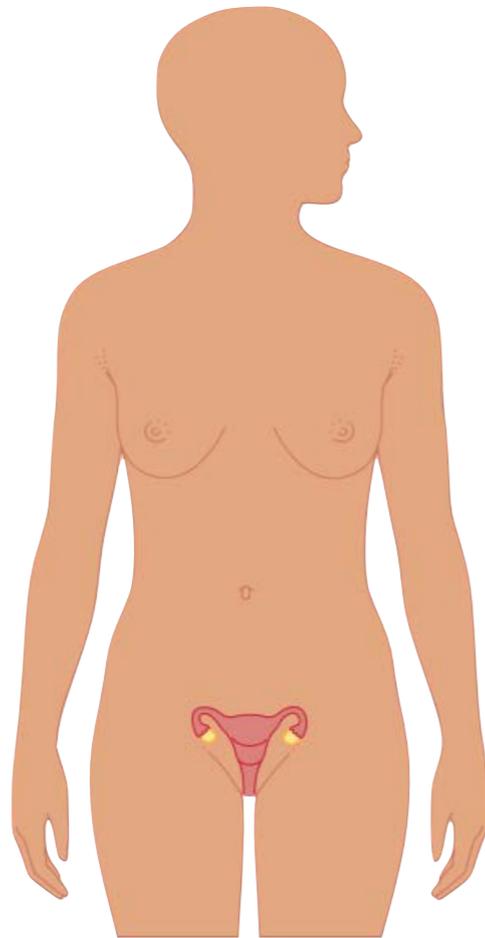
Sometimes, two babies grow at the same time; they are called twins

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How is a new life made?

For a new life to be formed, a man and a woman need to reproduce by having sexual intercourse.

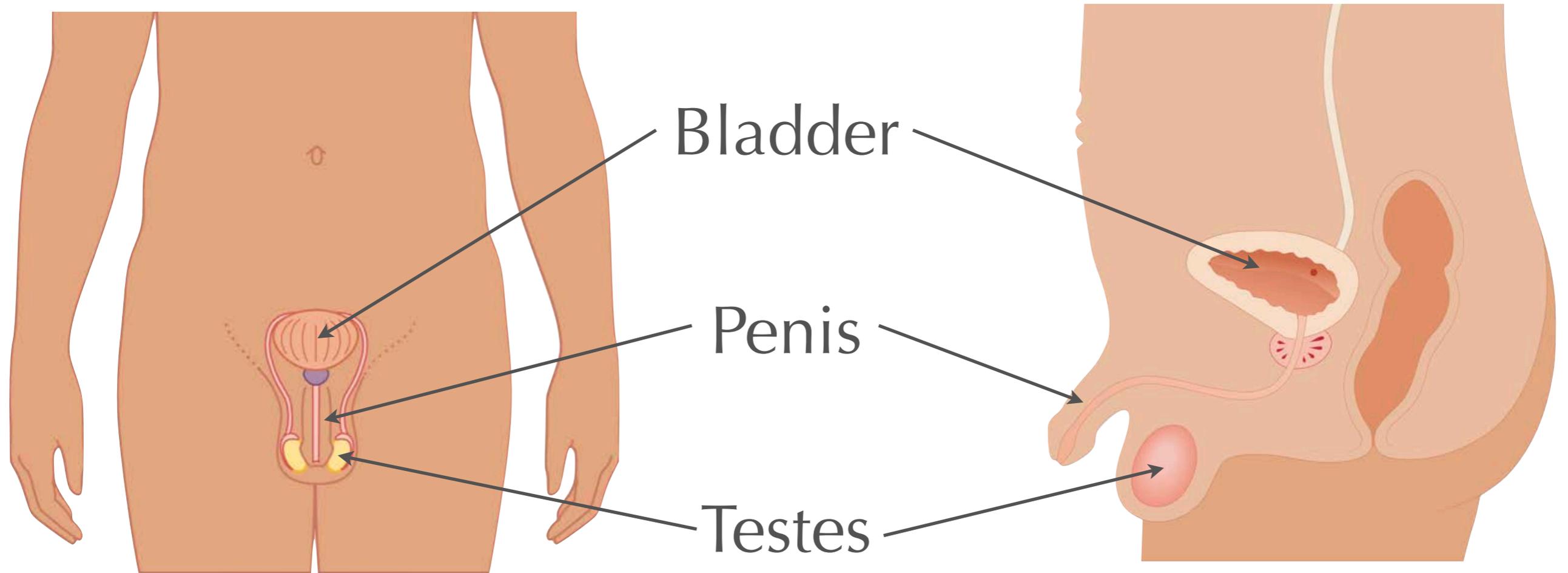


Women and men have different reproductive organs. Do you know the scientific names of any of the parts of these organs?

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Did you think of any of these?



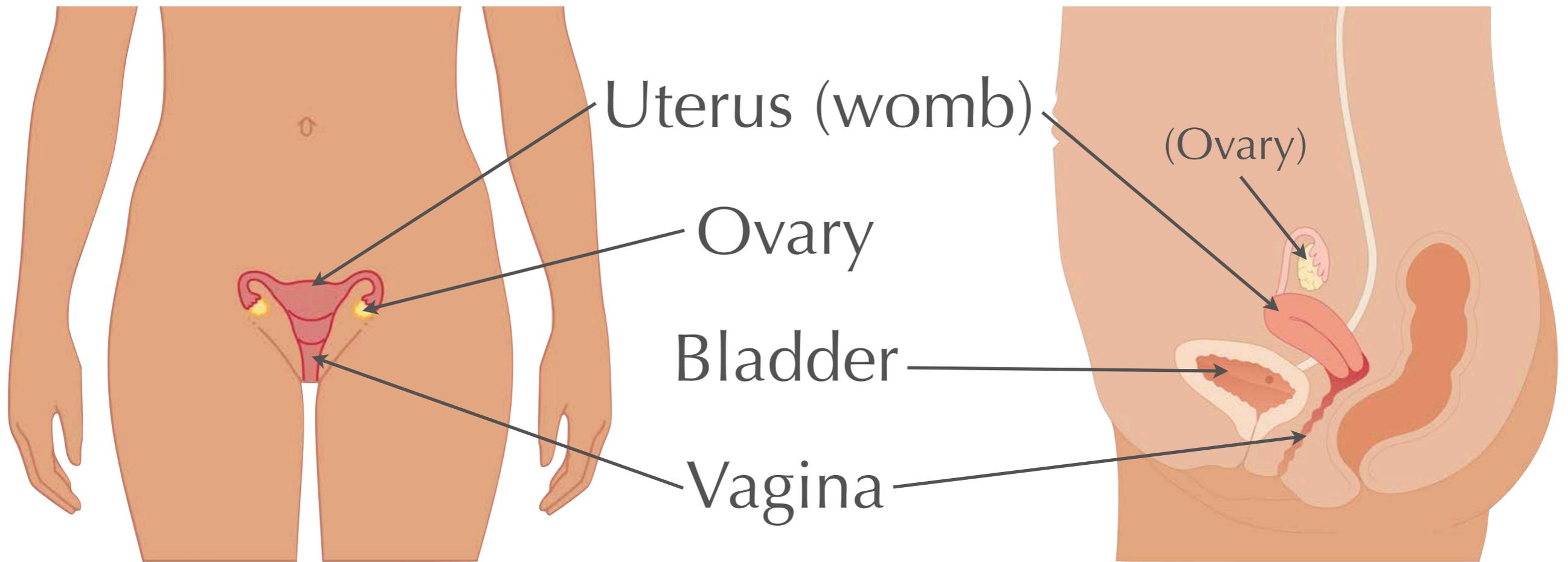
In males, the penis performs two main functions: to pass urine from the bladder out of the body and to pass sperm from the testes into the female reproductive organs.

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Male reproductive organs

NEXT

Did you think of any of these?



Egg cells from the ovaries travel to the uterus where, if they have combined with a sperm cell, an embryo starts to grow. The entrance to the female reproductive organs (the only part outside the body) is called the vulva.

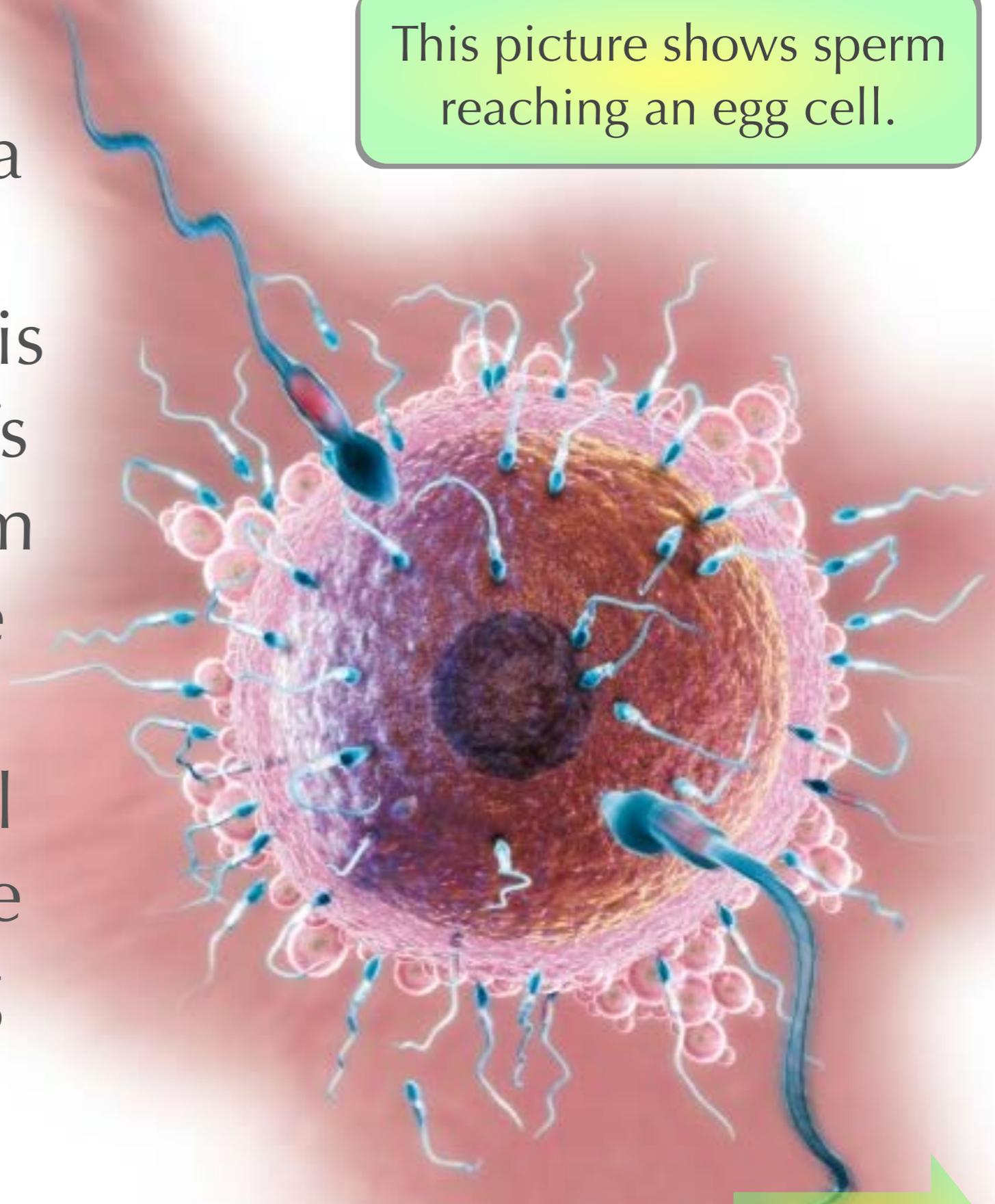
BACK

Female reproductive organs

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During sexual intercourse, a man and a woman lie very close together. The man puts his penis inside the woman's vagina. This allows sperm to travel into the female reproductive organs. Sometimes, a sperm cell and an egg cell combine to make a **fertilised egg cell**. A new life begins!

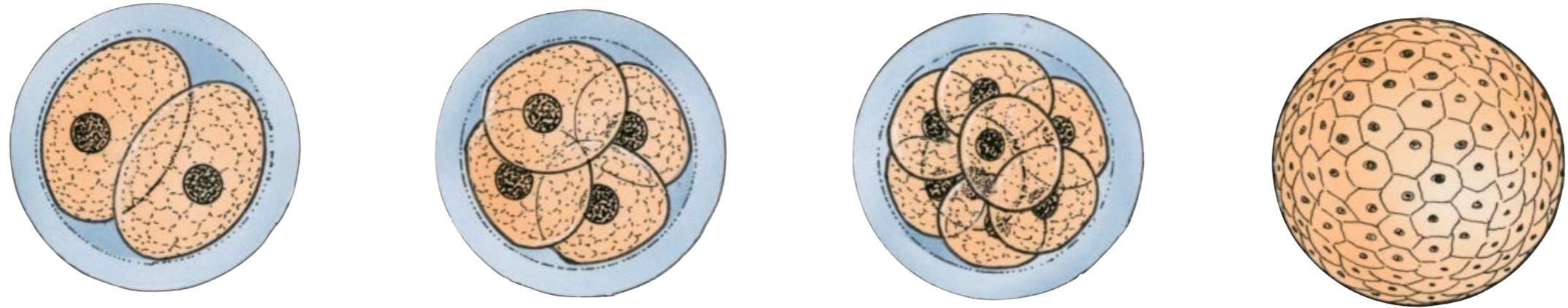
This picture shows sperm reaching an egg cell.



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Inside the uterus, the fertilised egg cell starts to divide, and divide again, growing bigger and bigger. This bundle of cells is called an **embryo**.



After around 9 weeks, the embryo has grown to around 3 or 4 centimetres. It has recognisable features, and is now called a **fetus**.



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From the moment when an egg is fertilised to childbirth, do you know how long human gestation (or pregnancy) lasts?

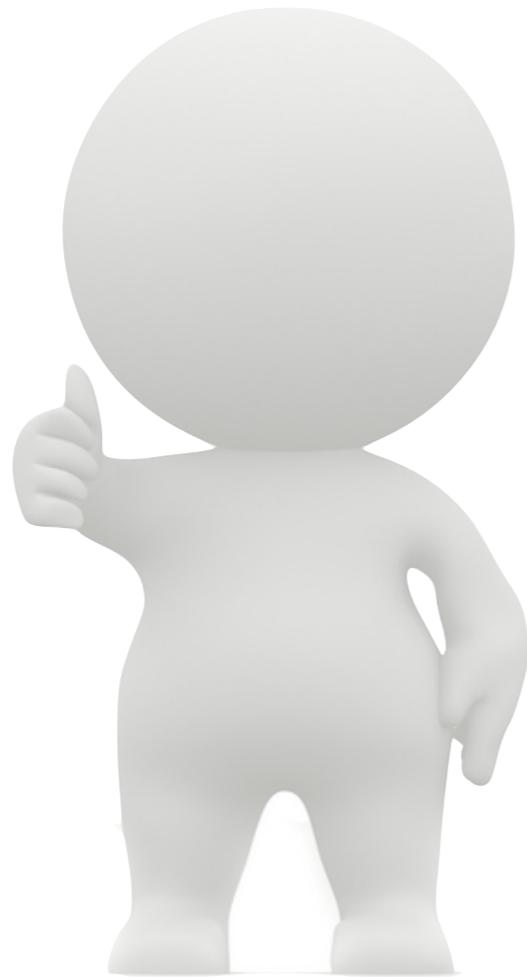


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The gestation period for humans is around 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ months, or 38 weeks.

Did you get
it right?



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NEXT

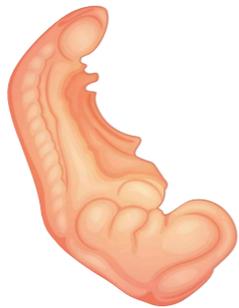
Stages of the human gestation period



1 day

A sperm and an egg cell combine. It immediately starts to divide and grow.

The embryo is around the size of a pea. It has some recognisable features.



5-6 weeks



9-10 weeks

The embryo now starts to look a bit like a baby. It is now called a fetus.

Halfway there! The fetus looks a lot like a baby now. It is around 15cm long.



19-20 weeks



38-42 weeks

The fetus is fully grown and ready to be born.

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Phew! What a lot of information. Time to see how much you've remembered...



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NEXT

Can you match these words with their definitions?

Fetus

Gestation

Sperm

Egg

Penis

Uterus

The name for the baby as it grows inside the womb (uterus).

The period of time when females are pregnant.

The male sex cell.

Part of the female reproductive organs, where a fertilised egg cell grows.

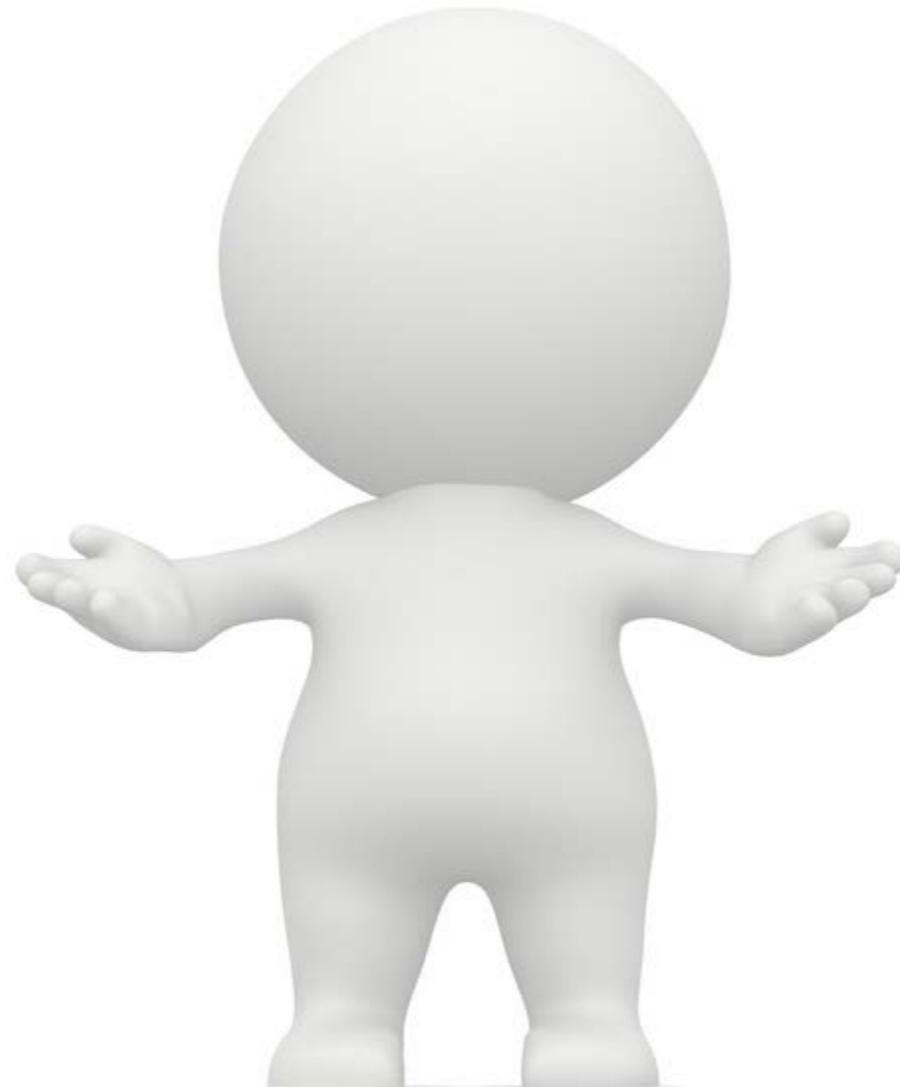
The female sex cell.

Part of the male reproductive organs, which sperm travel through into the female reproductive organs during sexual intercourse.

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Today we will be looking closely at the gestation periods of other animals and comparing them to that of humans.



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