



General Knowledge

Key Vocabulary

Fertilisation	the process of the male and female sex cells fusing together
Prenatal	the stage of development from the time of fertilization to the time of birth.
Gestation	the process or time when prenatal development takes place before birth
Reproduce	to produce young
Puberty	the physical stage of development between childhood and adulthood
Menstruation	when the female body discharges the lining of the uterus. This happens approximately once a month
Adulthood	the stage of development when a human is fully grown and mature.
Life expectancy	the length of time, on average that a particular animal is expected to live.

Body changes during puberty

Here are some changes that happen to both boys and girls:

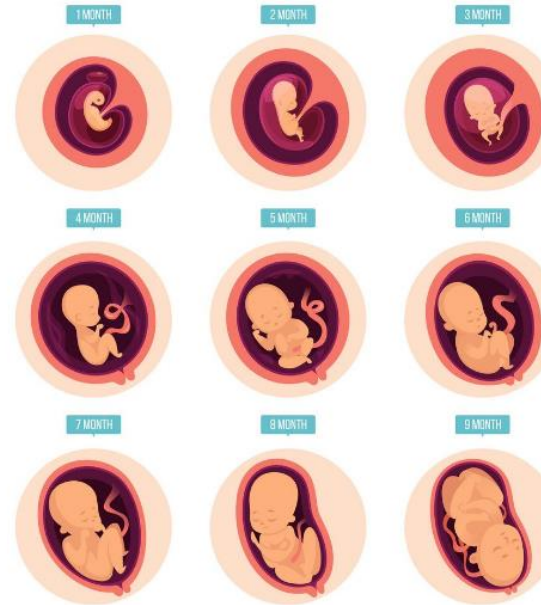
- underarm hair grows
- pubic hair grows
- body smell gets stronger
- emotional changes
- growth rate increases

Boys

- voice breaks (gets deeper)
- testes and penis get bigger
- testes start to produce sperm cells
- shoulders get wider
- hair grows on face and chest

Girls

- breasts develop
- ovaries start to release egg cells (the menstrual cycle starts)
- hips get wider



Gestation Period

The gestation period, in mammals, is the time period between conception until birth, during which fetal development takes place in the uterus.

It begins when a fertilised male sperm enters the uterus and ends when the fetus leaves the uterus during the birth process.

The gestation period is different between mammal species. Some take only a matter of weeks to give birth, whereas others have to wait months.

In humans, the gestation period takes approximately nine months.

fertilisation
The male and female sex cells fuse together.



prenatal

The cells develop and grow into a foetus inside the mother's uterus. After around nine months, the baby is born.

infancy

Rapid growth and development. Children learn to walk and talk.

childhood

Children learn new skills and become more independent.

adolescence

The body starts to change over a few years. The changes occur to enable reproduction during adulthood. Much more independent.

middle adulthood

Ability to reproduce decreases. There may be hair loss or hair may turn grey.

late adulthood

Leading a healthy lifestyle can help to slow down the decline in fitness and health which occurs during this stage.

early adulthood

The human body is at its peak of fitness and strength.

Did you know?

In the current animal world, the longest gestation period belongs to elephants, where it can last as long as 22 months.

