

HUMAN REPRODUCTION

Name _____

Fill in the blanks from the word list below. Words may be used more than once.

corpus luteum	implantation	ova	seminal fluid
estrogen	LH (luteinizing hormone)	progesterone	seminal vesicles
Fallopian tube	menstruation	prostate	testes
follicles	ovary	puberty	uterus
FSH (follicle stimulating hormone)	ovulation	scrotum	vagina
		semen	vas deferens

The production of sperm takes place in the Testes. These paired glands are contained in a sac called the scrotum. The sperm travel to the urethra through a long tube called the vas deferens. During this passage,

seminal fluid, secreted by the prostate, seminal vesicles

Cowper's glands are mixed with the sperm. This mixture is called semen.

During sexual intercourse, semen is released through the urethra and deposited in the female's vagina.

The female gonad is called the ovary. A female is born with all the egg cells, or ova, that she will ever have, but they are immature.

Beginning at puberty, the hormone FSH is released from the pituitary to stimulate maturation of a number of eggs. The eggs are contained in saclike structures called follicles. Usually, only one of the eggs matures fully each month.

As the follicles enlarge, they secrete the hormone estrogen, which causes the lining of the uterus to thicken. After about 9 to 17 days, a surge of the hormone LH is released from the pituitary. This causes the fully developed follicle to rupture, releasing a mature egg. This is called

ovulation. The follicle now becomes a yellow mass called the

corpus luteum. This body secretes the hormone progesterone, which further thickens the lining of the uterus in preparation for receiving and nourishing a fertilized egg.

When the ovum is released during ovulation, it enters a fallopian tube

begins its journey to the uterus. If it encounters sperm during this journey, it may be fertilized and begin dividing. When the fertilized egg reaches the uterus, if all goes well,

implantation will occur and a pregnancy will be established. If no fertilization occurs, the corpus luteum degenerates after about 13-15 days and

menstruation occurs. Then the cycle begins again.