Anatomy & Physiology: THE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

The male and female reproductive systems are responsible for sexual reproduction.

Terms

cervix: opening of the uterus into the vagina
Cowper's gland: contributes a protein-rich fluid to semen that acts as a lubricant
embryogenesis: embryo development
endometrium: layer of blood-rich tissue lining the uterus shed during menstruation if no pregnancy occurs
epididymis: where sperm complete final development of the head, which is the location of the chromosomes, and flagellum, or tail
fallopian tube: site of ejection of the egg from the ovary; location of fertilization of an egg by a sperm
follicles: contain oocytes and may mature into eggs
follicular stage: stage of the menstrual cycle when the egg matures in the follicles
gametes: specialized cells containing genes from each parent, allowing for genetically distinct offspring (in males, sperm; in females, eggs)
gonads: reproductive organs
luteal phase: stage of the menstrual cycle when hormone levels fall as egg is not fertilized, triggering menstruation
menstrual cycle: monthly process during which the egg and uterine lining are discharged from the body if fertilization fails to occur after ovulation
menstruation: shedding of the uterine lining
oocytes: primary cells that undergo one phase of meiosis, then lay in wait until adolescence, when they continue dividing and maturing
oogenesis: the production of female gametes, or eggs
ovaries: the site of oogenesis and location of follicles
ovulation: in human females, the stage of the monthly menstrual cycle when eggs mature and are released
penis: male organ containing the urethra through which urine and semen exit the body; becomes rigid during sexual arousal
placenta: an organ that allows diffusion of nutrients and oxygen to the embryo and embryo waste to the mother
proliferative phase: stage of the menstrual cycle when new lining begins to develop in the uterus
prostate gland: contributes an alkaline fluid to semen that counteracts the acidity of the vaginal tract
scrotum: a sac-like structure that houses the testes
secretory phase: stage of the menstrual cycle when blood flow increases in the uterus to prepare for potential egg implantation

Parts of the Female Reproductive System

Parts of the Male Reproductive System

semen: mixture of sperm and fluids ejaculated from the male body at the urethra
seminal vesicles: secrete the bulk of the fluid that makes up semen
sperm: male reproductive cell (gamete)
spermatogenesis: sperm development
testes: male pair of organs where sperm are produced
umbilical cord: transports blood to and from the embryo
uterus: muscular organ that houses the fetus during pregnancy
vagina: muscular passage from the cervix to the outside of the body
vas deferens: a long tube that carries sperm to the urethra
zygote: combination of male and female gametes in fertilization; develops into an embryo