

# Reproduction

## In humans

### MALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

Humans reproduce using sexual reproduction involving a man and a woman.

Testes; The two **testes** (one is called a testis) are contained in a bag of skin called the scrotum. They have two functions:

- to **produce sperm** (the male gametes or sex cells)
- to make the **hormone testosterone**

Sperm duct and Glands; The sperm pass through the sperm ducts, and mix with fluids produced by glands (seminal vesicles). The fluids provide the sperm cells with nutrients. This mixture is called semen.

Penis and Urethra; The penis has two functions:

- to pass **urine** out of the body from the bladder
- to pass **semen** into the vagina of a woman during sexual intercourse

The **urethra** is the tube inside the penis that can carry urine or semen. A ring of muscle ensures that urine and semen do not get mixed up.

### THE FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

Ovaries; The two **ovaries** contain **ova** (eggs). Ova are the female gametes or sex cells. Women have these cells in their bodies from birth, whereas men produce new sperm continually.

Oviducts; each ovary is connected to the **uterus** by an oviduct (fallopian tube). The **oviduct** is lined with **ciliated** cells. Every month, an ovum (egg) develops and becomes mature, and is released from an ovary. The cilia waft the ovum along inside the oviduct and into the uterus.

Uterus and Cervix; the **uterus** is a muscular bag with a soft lining. It is where a baby develops until its birth. The **cervix** is a ring of muscle at the lower end of the uterus. It keeps the baby in place while the woman is pregnant.

Vagina and Urethra; the **vagina** is a muscular tube that leads from the cervix to the outside of the woman's body. A man's penis goes into the woman's vagina during sexual intercourse. The opening to the vagina has folds of skin called **labia** that meet to form a vulva.

