

Frequently Asked Questions from **my•incredible body**

Some top questions and answers based on content presented in the Reproductive System section





You and your kids have watched the movies and explored the 3D models. Now they have questions. Here are some answers!

**Don't have My Incredible Body?
Get it for **iOS, Android,**
or **Windows Touch!****

reproduction
your body's changes

Q: WHAT DO EGGS DO?

A: Eggs are the female's sex cells and they are required for reproduction. When girls begin puberty, a single egg gets released from an ovary each month. It travels into a fallopian tube. When a sperm and egg unite—called fertilization—they multiply and create more cells that eventually create a baby. When an egg does not meet a sperm, it travels out of the body during menstruation.

Q: WHAT DO SPERM DO?

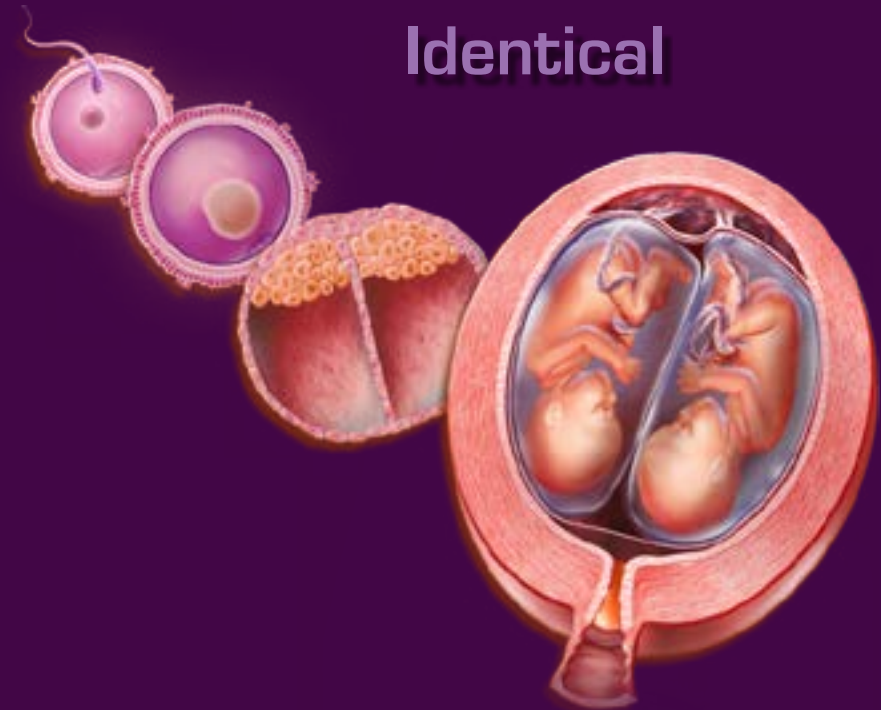
A: During puberty, the testicles begin producing sperm, the male sex cells. Sperm are essential to reproduction. From the testicles, sperm travel through various reproductive ducts, or tubes, in a fluid called semen. When a sperm swims up to join with an egg—called fertilization—these cells begin multiplying to create a baby.



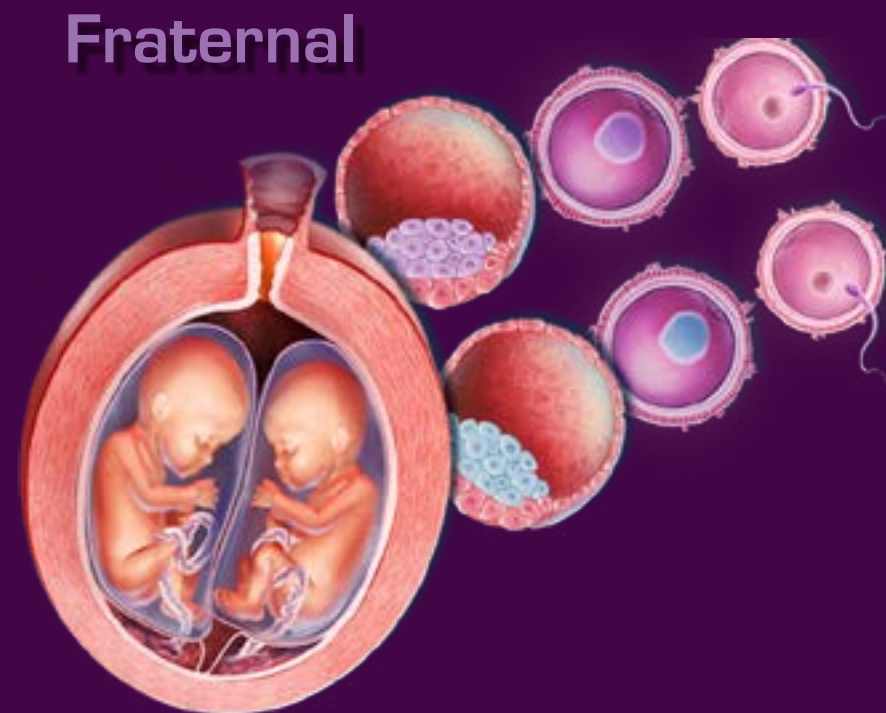
Q: HOW DO TWINS HAPPEN?

A: There are two types of twins: identical and fraternal. Identical twins are created when a sperm joins with an egg and the fertilized egg splits in two. Identical twins look almost exactly the same. They are always either two boys or two girls. Identical twins are more rare, and we really don't know why they occur.

Fraternal twins are more common. If two eggs are released and each is fertilized by a sperm, then two babies begin to develop. Fraternal twins may look similar, like other siblings, but not exactly alike. They can be a boy and a girl or two boys or two girls.



Identical



Fraternal



Q: WHY DOES THE BABY IN THE MOVIE LOOK SO FUNNY AS HE OR SHE GROWS?

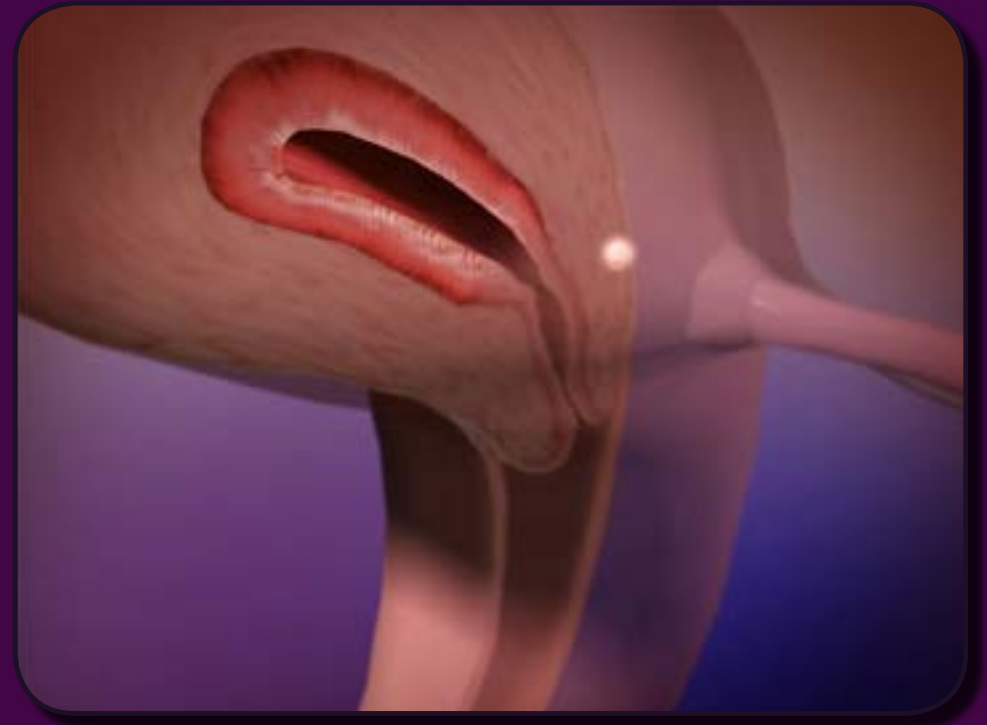
A: You may have noticed in our reproduction animation that at certain points in a baby's development while inside the mother, he or she doesn't quite look like a baby. This is because various parts of the baby develop at different times. In the early days, the baby looks like a tadpole. A little later, you'll notice things like how the eyes and nose change shape (and just look plain weird!) and the arms and legs look strange as they grow and change at different rates. Our medical animators have created this animation to reflect how a baby really looks before he or she is born. Most babies are born with all of their body parts and features in the right proportions!

Q: WHY DO GIRLS GET A PERIOD?

A: Puberty is the time when a girl's body starts changing and preparing for later on in life for a potential pregnancy.

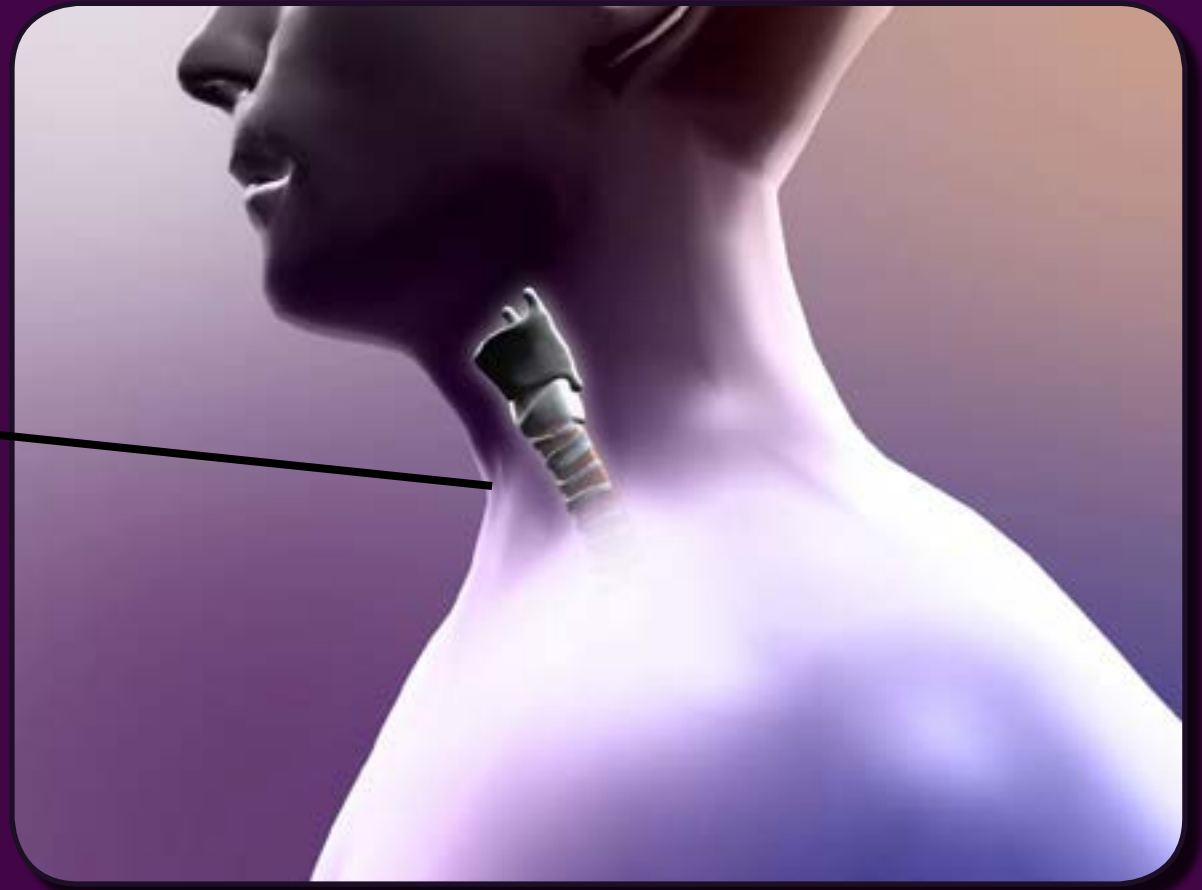
A girl's body starts practicing creating a "nest" in her uterus as a place for a baby to grow. This "nest" is a lining of blood

and tissue. About once a month, one of her ovaries releases an egg cell. If this egg cell is not fertilized, her body will know that the lining is not needed and the lining is shed. The uterus slowly sheds the lining of blood and tissue, which trickles out of the girl's body through the vagina. This is called having a period—or menstruation. A girl's period can last from 2 to 7 days. The following month, the uterus practices preparing a new lining and the process starts all over again.



Q: WHY DO BOYS' VOICES CHANGE?

A: A boy's voice gets deeper because his voice box gets larger during puberty. The larger it gets, the lower the sound it makes. It has to do with the way the air moves through the voice box. In fact, a boy's voice box will grow so much that it pops out at the front of his neck. It's often called the Adam's apple.



Q: WHY DO I GET ACNE?

A: When boys and girls go through puberty, new hormones are produced in the body. These hormones stimulate the glands in the skin to produce more oil. Pores can become clogged up with this excess oil and bacteria (germs) can get trapped, causing pimples or acne.

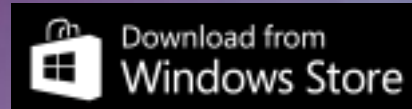


Q: WHY DO I SOMETIMES HAVE BODY ODOR?

A: You have been able to sweat since birth to cool off when you get hot. During puberty, you may notice that you sweat more under the arms than you did before. When boys and girls start puberty, the hormones you create change the way you sweat and the composition of your sweat changes. When the sweat meets your skin, the bacteria that normally lives on you creates the odor.



The Reproductive System is now available for My Incredible Body!



Amazing anatomy just for kids.



This content was reviewed by Chrystal deFreitas, MD, FAAP, founder and president of www.healthychats.com and practicing pediatrician at Carmel Valley Pediatrics based in San Diego, CA.