

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT: Female Reproductive System**VOCABULARY**

Fertilization	The joining of a male sperm cell and a female egg cell to form new human life. (p. 164)
Ovulation	The process by which the ovaries release a single mature egg. (p. 164)
Menstruation	The flow of the uterine lining material from the body (p. 164)
Ovaries	The female reproductive glands (p. 165)
Uterus	A pear shaped organ in which a developing child is nourished (p. 165)
Gynecologist	A doctor who specializes in the female reproductive system (p. 167)

THE FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM**1. SYSTEM'S MAIN FUNCTION**

- Produce **HORMONES ESTROGEN** and **PROGESTERONE** necessary for sexual development and reproduction
- Store and release female reproductive cells called **EGG CELLS**
- Allow **FERTILIZATION** (joining of sperm and egg cells) to take place
- Nourish** and **protect** developing child until it is ready to survive outside the body

2. PARTS OF THE SYSTEM

Ovaries (A)- Two female reproductive **GLANDS** that release the **EGG**. Also increase production of **ESTROGEN** and **PROGESTERONE HORMONES** for sexual development

Fallopian tubes (B)- Tube that connects the **ovary** to the **uterus**. **FERTILIZATION** takes place here.

Uterus (C) - "**WOMB**" – pear shaped organ **where** the child **develops** and is **nourished**

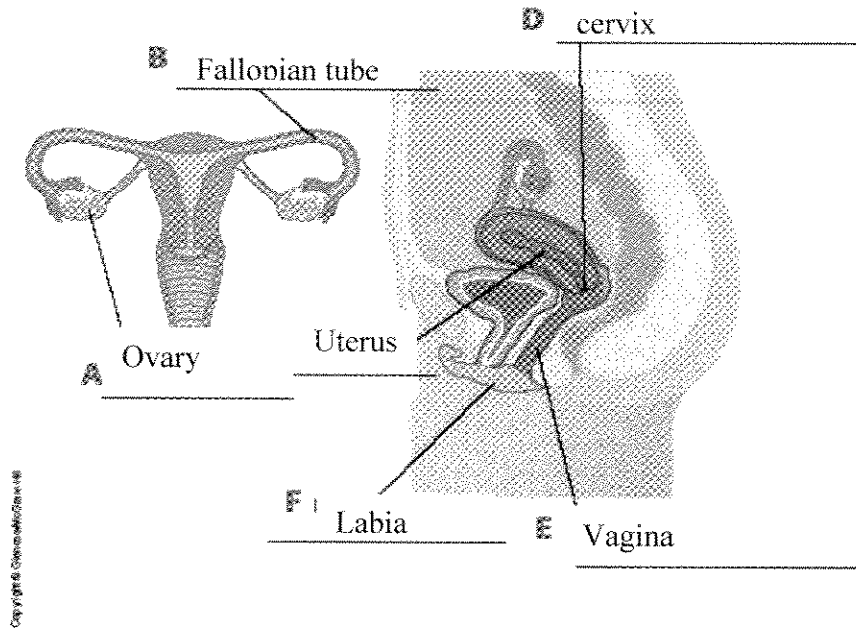
Labia (F) - **Folds** of **skin** that cover the opening of the **vagina**

Vagina (E)- Leads from the **uterus** to **outside** the body. **Menstrual flow** leaves the body through the vagina and **baby** is pushed out of the mothers body through the vagina.

Cervix (D)- **Opening** at the bottom of the **uterus**

THE FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

2. PARTS OF THE SYSTEM (Label the Diagram)



3. How to Care for the System

1. Shower/Bathe daily to keep external organs clean
2. Regular health screenings by a GYNECOLOGIST – Dr. that specializes in the female rep system
3. Monthly breast exams for unusual lumps
4. Keep record of menstrual cycles. See Dr. for severe or unusual pain

4. Health Concerns of the System

1. Vaginitis – Infection of the vagina treated with medication.
2. Premenstrual syndrome (PMS) – Physical and emotional discomfort before menstruation begins. Physical – headaches, fatigue, irritability, abdominal cramps.
3. Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) – Rare bacterial infection linked to tampon use.
4. Cancer – Breast, ovaries, cervix and uterus can all be affected by cancer. Regular health screenings are important for early detection.
5. Infertility – Not able to produce children

"Females should discuss with parents any questions they have about their reproductive systems or sexuality in general." Talking openly and honestly is an effective way to communicate. (page 163)

THE FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

5. Menstrual Cycle

- OVULATION is when the OVARY releases a single mature egg
- Prior to (BEFORE) ovulation the LINING of the UTERUS THICKENS

If fertilization occurs . . .

The LINING of the UTERUS develops FURTHER to NOURISH the FERTILIZED egg.

If fertilization does not occur . . .

The LINING of the UTERUS sheds into BLOOD, TISSUE, and FLUIDS. The shedding of the uterus leaves the body through the VAGINA.

- Menstruation in females starts between 9-16
- During pregnancy, the LINING of the UTERUS does not shed and the woman does not menstruate.