

Key term	Definition
adaptation	Characteristic that helps an organism survive in its environment
adolescence	The period of time when a child changes into an adult.
amniotic fluid	Liquid that surrounds and protects the fetus.
cervix	The ring of muscle at the entrance to the uterus. It keeps the baby in place while the woman is pregnant.
cilia	Tiny hairs on the surface of cells.
condom	A barrier method of contraception that prevents semen being released into the vagina.
continuous variation	Where differences in characteristics between living things can have any numerical value.
contraception	A method of preventing pregnancy.
contraceptive pill	A chemical method of contraception.
discontinuous variation	Where differences in characteristics between living things can only be grouped into categories.
egg cell	The female sex cell.
ejaculation	When semen is released from the penis.
embryo	A ball of cells that forms when the fertilised egg divides.
environmental variation	Variation (differences) between organisms caused by environmental factors.
fertilisation	Joining of a nucleus from a male and female sex cell.
fetus	The developing baby during pregnancy (from eight weeks after fertilisation).
gamete	The male gamete (sex cell) in animals is a sperm, the female gamete is an egg.
gestation	Process where the baby develops during pregnancy.

implantation	The process where an embryo attaches to the lining of the uterus.
inherited variation	Variation (differences) between organisms caused by genetic factors.
menstrual cycle (period)	The monthly cycle during which the uterus lining thickens and then breaks down.
menstruation	Loss of the lining of the uterus during the menstrual cycle.
ovary	Organ that contains eggs.
oviduct (fallopian tube)	Carries an egg from the ovary to the uterus and is where fertilisation occurs.
ovulation	Release of an egg during the menstrual cycle.
penis	Organ that carries sperm out of the male's body.
placenta	Organ that provides the fetus with oxygen and nutrients and removes waste substances. It also acts as a barrier, stopping infections and harmful substances reaching the fetus.
puberty	The physical changes that take place during adolescence.
reproductive system	All the male and female organs involved in reproduction. The organ systems that produce sperm and eggs, also where the fetus develops.
scrotum	The bag of skin that holds the testicles.
semen	Fluid containing sperm.
sex hormones	Hormones that are involved in the reproductive system, including testosterone in males and oestrogen in females.
sexual intercourse	The process where the penis releases semen into the vagina.
species	A group of living things that have more in common with each than they do with other groups. This allows them to mate to produce fertile offspring.
sperm cell	Male sex cell containing male genetic material.
sperm duct	Tube that carries sperm from the testicles to the penis.

testicles (testes)	Organ where sperm and testosterone are produced.
umbilical cord	Connects the fetus to the placenta.
urethra	Tube that carries urine or sperm out of the body.
uterus (womb)	Where a baby develops in a pregnant woman.
vagina	Where the penis enters the female's body and sperm is received.
variation	The differences within and between species.