





Physical Health

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Physical Health

In this section, you will learn:

- more about puberty;
- the importance of personal hygiene during puberty;
- the importance of a healthy diet during puberty;
- how to maintain a healthy body;
- about some common eye infections; and
- about getting enough sleep.



More About Puberty

Class:

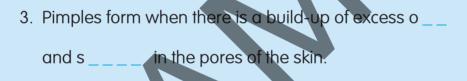
In general, girls reach puberty a little earlier than boys do. Puberty usually happens in girls aged 8 to 13 years old, and in boys aged 9 to 14 years old. It does not matter when puberty begins. Everyone goes through these changes once the body is ready.



Can you recall the changes a young person experiences during puberty? Fill in the blanks with a suitable word in the sentences below.



- 1. To get ready for puberty, a young person should e __ healthily,
 - e _____ regularly and s ___ well.
 - 2. Height and weight increase rapidly during a g_____
 - S____.





- 4. A severe case of pimples is called a b _ _ _ o _ _.
- 5. Body odour is caused by sweat coming into contact with b _____ on the skin.
- 6. To prevent or reduce body odour, s _____ regularly, especially on hot days and after exercising.



Learning Objective: Pupils will be able to recognise the different stages of growth and development of their bodies.

7.	Hair will grow at the a,	in the p	area betw	een the legs,	and on
	the arms and legs. For boys, hair v	vill also grow on	the f	and c	

8. Around two years after a girl's breasts develop, m _ _ s _ _ _ begins.



9. During menstruation, girls may choose s _____ pads or tampons to absorb the menstrual flow. Tampons are useful for girls who swim regularly.

10. A boy's chest, shoulders and limbs will become more m _ _ _ _ .





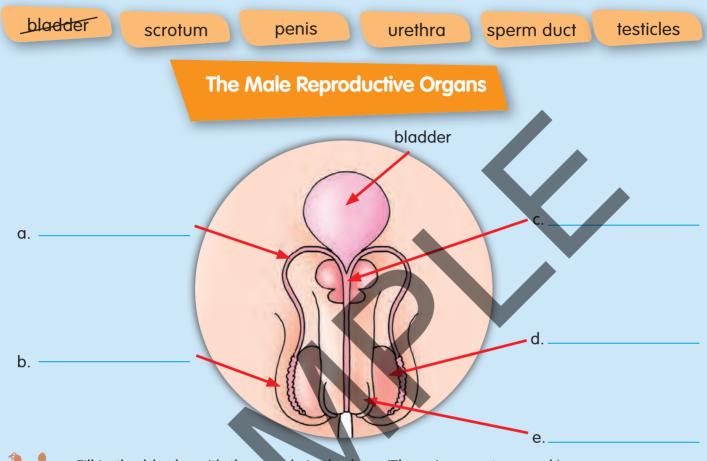
- 11. While a boy's voice is changing to become I____, it may 'squeak' every now and then. This change is known as 'voice breaking'.
- 12. It is unhealthy to d____ during puberty because you will be depriving your body of the energy and nutrients that it needs in order to grow well.

4

During puberty, the reproductive organs get a signal from the brain—this is the time to start maturing. The reproductive organs then produce hormones (chemical substances) and these hormones cause many physical changes in the body.



Label the parts of the male productive system with the words in the box.



Fill in the blanks with the words in the box. (There is an extra word.)

sperm testicles urethra testosterone



hormones: chemical messengers that give instructions to the different parts of the body to carry out a particular action.

reproductive organs: the part of the body that enables people to have children.

What are 'wet dreams'?

You may have heard of your friends joking and talking about 'wet dreams'. Below are some facts you may want to know:

- Wet dreams are nocturnal erections (penis stiffening) followed by an ejaculation (semen discharge) from the penis during sleep. They are normal for boys experiencing puberty. This could occur during an erotic dream.
- Not everyone will have wet dreams but for those who do, it is a sign of normal functioning of the reproductive organs.
- Not having wet dreams is also normal.

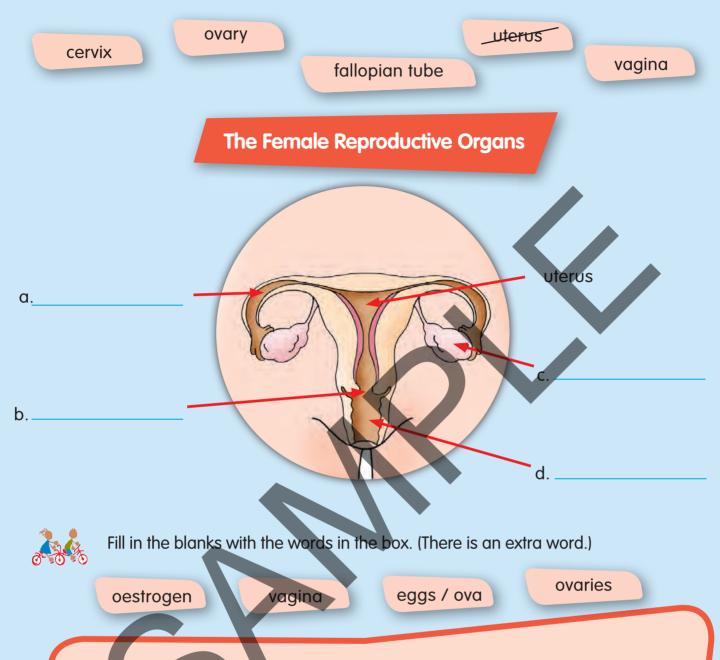
Wet dreams are called that simply because they happen while a boy is asleep and the wetness is due to the night-time discharge of semen. It is important to wash and clean up after a wet dream to prevent infection.

You now know that both having wet dreams or not having them are normal at puberty. There is no need to feel guilty or embarrassed about wet dreams. They are just part of the changes experienced by some boys during puberty.





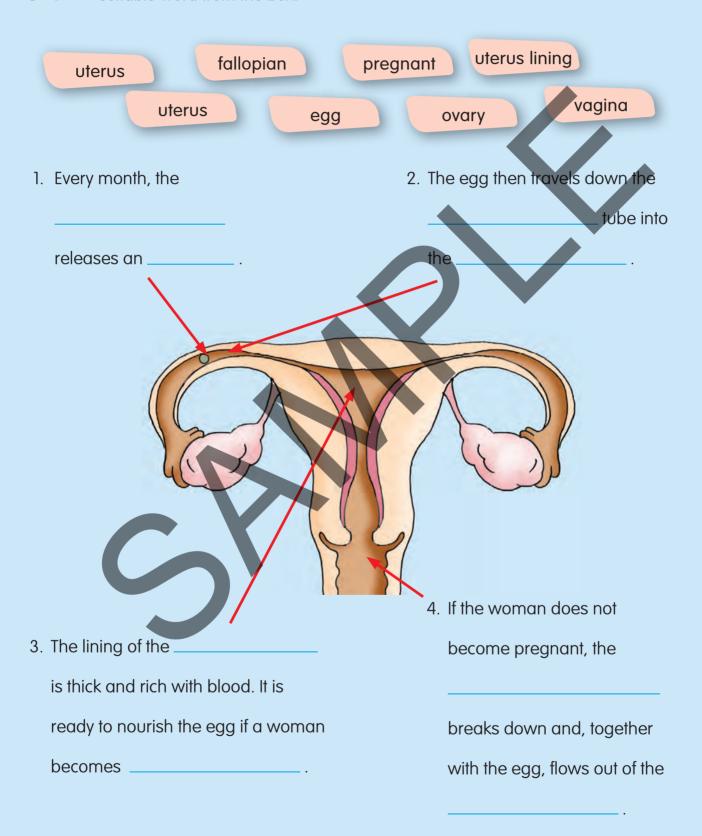
Label the parts of the female productive system with the words in the box.



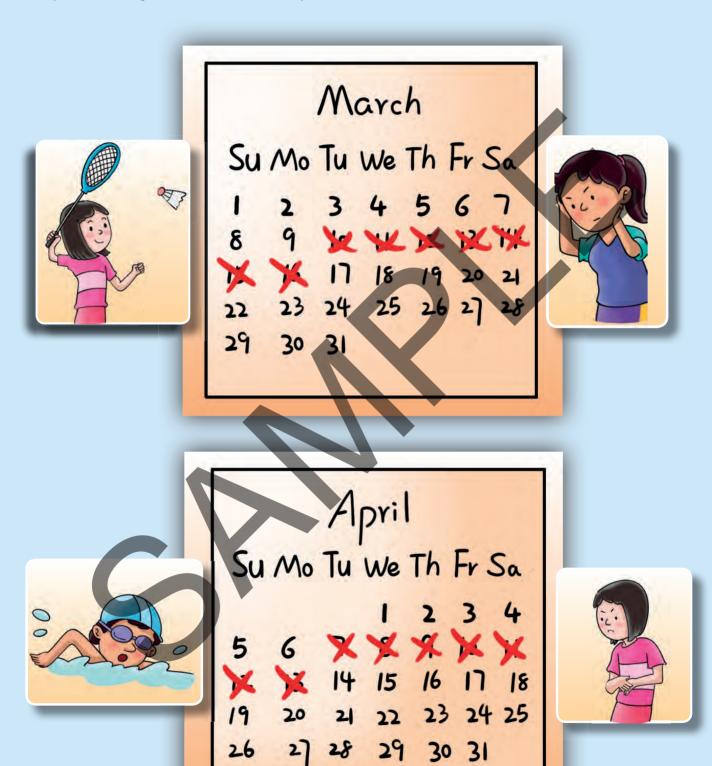
Menstruation begins once the female reproductive organs are fully mature. The first menstruation is called menarche. This is when the girl starts to menstruate or 'have her period'. On average, menstruation happens once every 28 days. However, the cycle is different for every girl, and it can range from 23 to 35 days.



Do you know what happens during the menstrual cycle? Fill in the blanks with a suitable word from the box.



Menstruation tells a girl that her body is healthy and functioning the way it should. During her period, she should stay clean and change tampons or sanitary pads regularly. It is perfectly all right for a girl to carry on with exercise and physical activities. Some girls may experience slight abdominal cramps, headaches and change in moods. Any girl experiencing pain or discomfort during her period may choose to do light exercises. However, if there is heavy bleeding, severe cramps or fainting, she should seek help from a doctor.



During puberty, the body becomes sexually mature. This means you are able to reproduce, or have children. However, even if your body is ready to have a child, it does not mean you are mentally ready or emotionally prepared to be a parent. You must first learn responsibility for yourself before you can be responsible for another person.

Puberty can be a confusing and stressful time. The time before becoming an adult can be made easier if you begin to understand the changes your body is going through.

