

# Anatomy & Physiology: THE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM



► The **male and female reproductive systems** are responsible for sexual reproduction.

## TERMS

**cervix:** opening of the uterus into the vagina

**Cowper's gland:** contributes a protein-rich fluid to semen that acts as a lubricant

**embryogenesis:** embryo development

**endometrium:** layer of blood-rich tissue lining the uterus shed during menstruation if no pregnancy occurs

**epididymis:** where sperm complete final development of the head, which is the location of the chromosomes, and flagellum, or tail

**fallopian tube:** site of ejection of the egg from the ovary; location of fertilization of an egg by a sperm

**follicles:** contain oocytes and may mature into eggs

**follicular stage:** stage of the menstrual cycle when the egg matures in the follicles

**gametes:** specialized cells containing genes from each parent, allowing for genetically distinct offspring (in males, sperm; in females, eggs)

**gonads:** reproductive organs

**luteal phase:** stage of the menstrual cycle when hormone levels fall as egg is not fertilized, triggering menstruation

**menstrual cycle:** monthly process during which the egg and uterine lining are discharged from the body if fertilization fails to occur after ovulation

**menstruation:** shedding of the uterine lining

**oocytes:** primary cells that undergo one phase of meiosis, then lay in wait until adolescence, when they continue dividing and maturing

**oogenesis:** the production of female gametes, or eggs

**ovaries:** the site of oogenesis and location of follicles

**ovulation:** in human females, the stage of the monthly menstrual cycle when eggs mature and are released

**penis:** male organ containing the urethra through which urine and semen exit the body; becomes rigid during sexual arousal

**placenta:** an organ that allows diffusion of nutrients and oxygen to the embryo and embryo waste to the mother

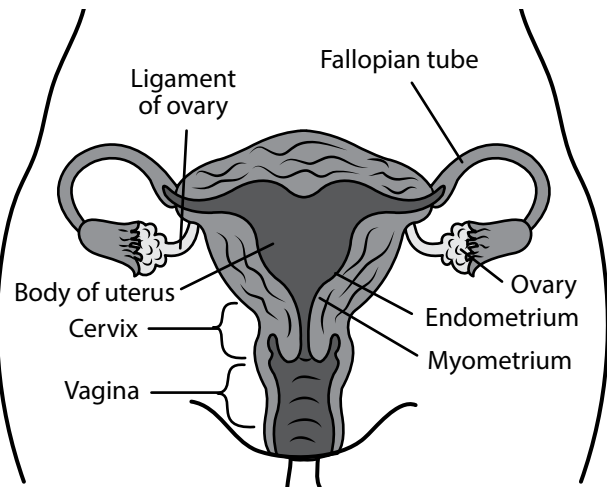
**proliferative phase:** stage of the menstrual cycle when new lining begins to develop in the uterus

**prostate gland:** contributes an alkaline fluid to semen that counteracts the acidity of the vaginal tract

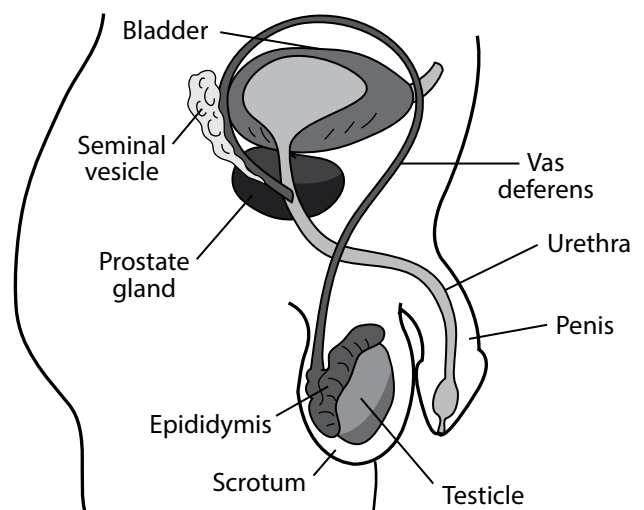
**scrotum:** a sac-like structure that houses the testes

**secretory phase:** stage of the menstrual cycle when blood flow increases in the uterus to prepare for potential egg implantation

## PARTS OF THE FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM



## PARTS OF THE MALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM



**semen:** mixture of sperm and fluids ejaculated from the male body at the urethra

**seminal vesicles:** secrete the bulk of the fluid that makes up semen

**sperm:** male reproductive cell (gamete)

**spermatogenesis:** sperm development

**testes:** male pair of organs where sperm are produced

**umbilical cord:** transports blood to and from the embryo

**uterus:** muscular organ that houses the fetus during pregnancy

**vagina:** muscular passage from the cervix to the outside of the body

**vas deferens:** a long tube that carries sperm to the urethra

**zygote:** combination of male and female gametes in fertilization; develops into an embryo