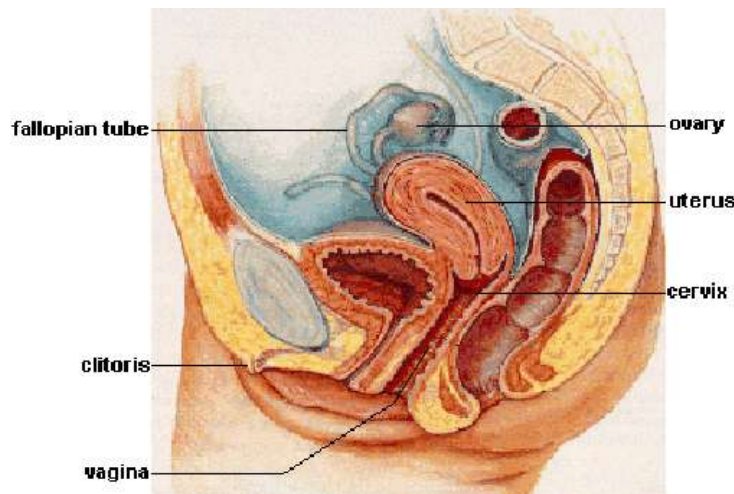


# ? The Female And Male Reproductive System Puzzle — Answer Key

## Female Reproductive System

The reproductive system in a girl begins to mature during a period of time known as **puberty**. Two hormones: **estrogen** and **progesterone** are instrumental in bringing this process about. The female reproductive system contains two almond shaped organs called the **ovaries**. This is where the **egg cells** are produced. Approximately once a month, a mature egg, or **ovum** is released and enters one of the **fallopian tubes**. This process is known as **ovulation**. The egg flows down toward the **uterus**, where, if it has been **fertilized**, it will attach to the **uterine wall**. If the egg is not fertilized by the male **sperm cell**, it will leave the body along with the **lining** of the uterus and a small amount of blood. This process is called **menstruation**. The uterus (womb) is a hollow, pear-shaped organ where the developing fetus resides. The uterus has two parts: the **cervix**, which is the lower part that opens into the vagina, and the main part of the uterus, called the **corpus**, which can easily expand to hold the developing baby. A channel through the cervix allows sperm to enter and menstrual blood to exit.

The **vagina** is the organ where intercourse occurs. A thin membrane of skin located at the entrance to this organ is called the **hymen**. The outside of the organ consisting of two folds of skin (located on either side of the entrance) is called the **labia**. A small, round and sensitive area of skin between these folds and at the top is known as the **clitoris**.



# The Female And Male Reproductive System Puzzle — Answer Key (cont.)



## Male Reproductive System

One function of the male reproductive system is the production of sex hormones, the primary one being testosterone. Like the female sex hormone (estrogen) this is responsible for developing sex organs. It kicks in at puberty and generates the production of sperm, while causing some secondary characteristics such as facial hair and a deeper voice.

A second function of the male reproductive system is the production of male sex cells called sperm, which occurs in the seminiferous tubules of the testes. These oval shaped glands are protected by a pouch of skin called the scrotum. Its purpose is to protect the testes which are located outside the body so that they keep the sperm at a cooler temperature, thus making the sperm more viable. Like the female egg, sperm have 23 chromosomes. When sperm and egg unite and the egg is fertilized, they form a cell with 46 chromosomes.

Next to the testes is a series of coiled tubes, call the epididymis. This is where the sperm are allowed to mature and are stored. Leading from the epididymus is the vas deferens. During ejaculation or orgasm, the walls of this structure contract reflexively, propelling the sperm forward. The sperm moves from the vas deferens to the urethra, the tube that leads outside of the body and which carries both urine and semen. Along the way, sperm are nourished by a sugary fluid from the seminal vesicle, a chemical fluid from the prostate gland, and fluid from the Cowper's gland, which are two small glands near the bladder. These fluids combine with the sperm to form semen, which is carried to the external male reproductive organ, the penis. Before a male can ejaculate, the spongy tissue surrounding the penis become engorged with blood, causing the penis to become stiff. This is known as an erection.

