

Male Body Parts and Functions

•**Penis** (pee'-nis): The male external sex organ; Semen and urine are discharged from the penis; It is made up of spongy material that fills up with extra blood (becomes erect) when sexually aroused; There is no bone in the penis; The penis continues to grow as does the rest of the body. Size varies from person to person.

•**Scrotum** (skroh'-tum): the sac that holds the testicles; the testicles have to be kept at a certain temperature just below body temperature in order to produce healthy sperm. The scrotum pulls the testicles closer to the body if it is cold and lowers away from the body if it is hot.

•**Anus** (ey-nuhs): The opening at the end of the digestive tract where feces leaves the body; It is not part of the reproductive system, but is part of the digestive system.

•**Testicles** (tes'-tick-uhlz): The male sex glands; they are held in the scrotum; they are on the outside of the body so that they can stay cooler than body temperature for healthy sperm production; it is normal for one to hang lower; this is a very sensitive area. It is important to protect the testicles during contact sports, etc.

•**Vas Deferens** (vaz-def'-er-enz): This is a narrow tube that carries sperm from the testicles to the urethra.

•**Seminal Vesicles** (sem-uh-nl ves-i-cles): Two small pouches behind the bladder that produce and store seminal fluid; this fluid mixes with sperm and other fluid to produce semen.

•**Urethra** (you-reeth'-ruh): Urine and semen pass through this tube to the outside of the body; urine and semen cannot come out at the same time; there are two branches to the urethra, one from the bladder and the other from the vas deferens; when the penis is ready to release semen, a valve blocks off the branch to the bladder so urine cannot escape.

•**Bladder** (blad-er): The sac that holds the urine produced by the kidney; it is not part of the reproductive system, but the urinary system.

•**Sperm** (spurm): The male reproductive cell; these cells are very small (over 300 million in 5 ml of semen); millions are made every day in the testicles.

Female Body Parts and Functions

- **Vagina** (vuh-jie-nuh): the passageway leading from the uterus to the outside of the female body; blood from the uterus passes through the vagina during menstruation; a baby passes from the uterus through the vagina during childbirth; it is not used for urination.
- **Cervix** (sur-viks): the bottom of the uterus that opens into the vagina.
- **Uterus** (you'-tuh-rus): the special place in a woman's body where a baby can grow; also called the womb; it is about the size of a fist; the uterus that enlarges during pregnancy, not the stomach.
- **Vulva** (vuhl-vuh): the term used to define the external female genitalia including the labia and clitoris.
- **Clitoris** (klit'-er-us): part of female's genitals; which is full of nerves.
- **Fallopian (fuh-low'-pee-un) Tubes**: these are narrow tubes that connect the ovaries to the uterus; the ovum travels through one of the tubes after ovulation; it is in the fallopian tubes that fertilization may occur.
- **Labia** (lay-bee-uh): folds of skin that protect the opening to the vagina.
- **Ovaries** (oh-vuh-reez): the female ovum-producing glands; these glands contain all of the ovum from birth, and start releasing them once puberty starts.
- **Ovum** (oh'-vuhm): produced in the ovaries; a special cell which, when fertilized (united with a male sperm cell), can create a baby; each ovary contains about 250,000 ova from birth; ovum are released once a month after puberty begins. Occasionally two or more ovum are released; the ovum travel down the fallopian tubes to reach the uterus; if the ovum is not fertilized in a day or so, it dissolves.
- **Urethra** (you-reeth'-ruh): the tube through which urine passes from the body; the opening between the clitoris and the vagina; not part of the reproductive system, but the urinary system.
- **Bladder** (blad-er): the sac that holds the urine produced by the kidney; not part of the reproductive system, but the urinary system.
- **Anus** (eh-nuhs): the opening at the end of the digestive tract where feces or stool leaves the body; not part of the reproductive system, but is part of the digestive system.