

Year 7: Reproduction and Inheritance

- Inherited characteristics are the result of genetic information, in the form of sections of DNA called genes, being transferred from parents to offspring during reproduction.
- Chromosomes are long pieces of DNA which contain many genes.
- Gametes, carrying half the total number of chromosomes of each parent, combine during fertilisation.
- There is variation between individuals of the same species.
- Some variation is inherited, some is caused by the environment and some is caused by a combination of inherited and environmental factors.
- Variation between individuals is important for the survival of a species, helping it to avoid extinction in an always changing environment.

Keywords

Amniotic fluid: liquid that surrounds and protects the foetus.

Chromosomes: thread-like structures containing tightly coiled DNA.

Continuous variation: where differences between living things can have any numerical value.

Discontinuous variation: where differences between living things can only be grouped into categories.

DNA: a molecule found in the nucleus of cells that contains genetic information.

Fertilisation: joining of a nucleus from a male and female sex cell.

Foetus: the developing baby during pregnancy.

Gamete: the male gamete (sex cell) in animals is a sperm, the female an egg.

Gene: a section of DNA that determines an inherited characteristic.

Gestation: process where the baby develops during pregnancy.

Inherited characteristics: features that are passed from parents to their offspring.

Menstruation: loss of the lining of the uterus during the menstrual cycle.

Ovary: organ which contains eggs.

Oviduct or fallopian tube: carries an egg from the ovary to the uterus and is where fertilisation occurs.

Ovulation: release of an egg cell during the menstrual cycle.

Penis: organ which carries sperm out of the male's body.

Placenta: organ that provides the foetus with oxygen and nutrients and removes waste substances.

Reproductive system: all the male and female organs involved in reproduction.

Species: a group of living things that have more in common with each other than with other groups.

Testicle: organ where sperm are produced.

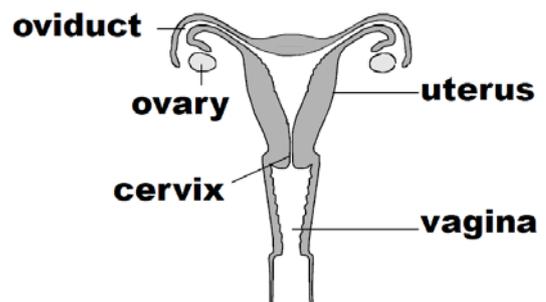
Umbilical cord: connects the foetus to the placenta.

Uterus or 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.

FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM



MALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

