

Genes

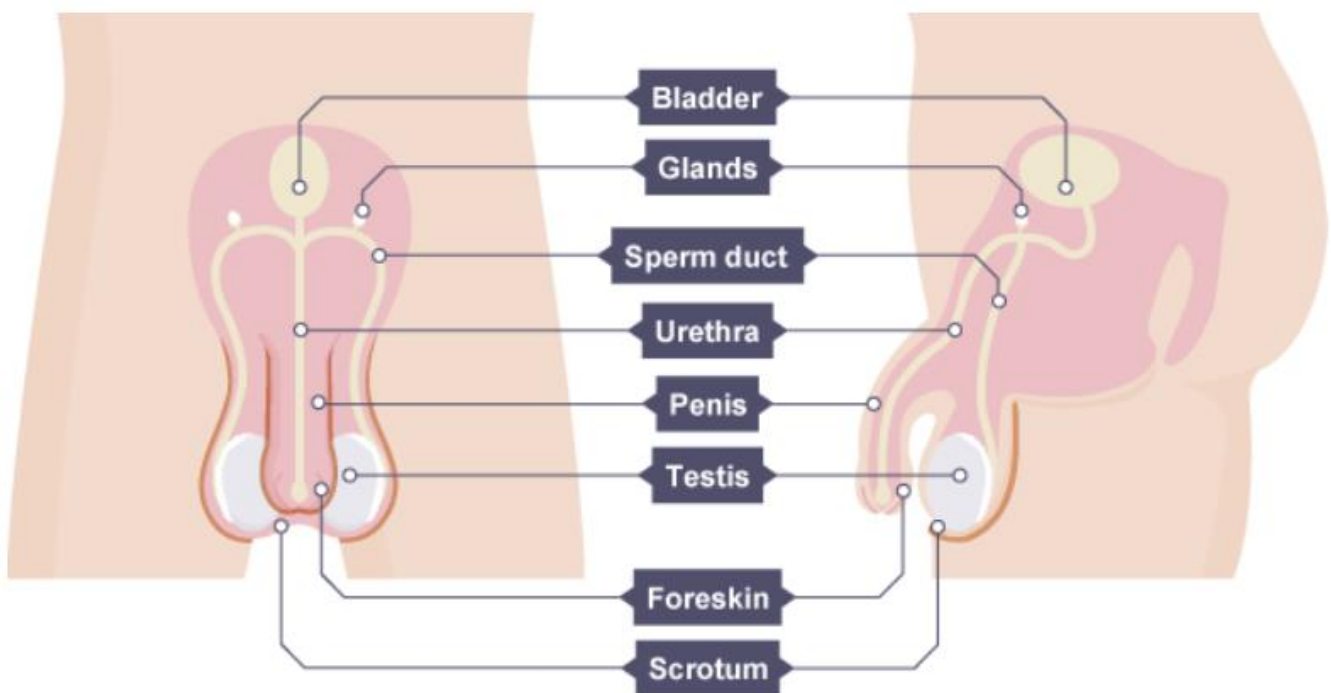
2. Human reproduction

CONCEPT 1

FEMALE AND MALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEMS

NOTES

The human reproductive system is different in males and females. The main organs in the male reproductive system are the; testis, penis, urethra, sperm duct and glands. The two testes (singular is called a testis) are contained in a bag of skin called the scrotum. One job of the testes is to produce millions of sperm cells known as gametes (sex cells). The second job is to make male sex hormones, such as testosterone that affect the way a man's body develops, particularly during puberty. The sperm ducts mix the sperm with fluids made by the glands to provide the sperm with the nutrients they need. This mixture of sperm and fluid is called the semen. The penis also has two main functions; to pass urine and semen through the urethra.



The main organs in the female reproductive system are the; oviducts, ovaries, uterus, cervix and vagina. Females have two ovaries, a singular is called an ovary. The ovaries contain thousands of undeveloped egg cells (gametes) that are there from birth. A collection of egg cells are called ova and a singular ovum. Oviducts are the tubes connecting the ovaries to the uterus, also known as the fallopian tubes or egg tubes. The oviducts are covered in tiny hair like cells called cilia, when an egg matures and releases the cilia helps moved the egg cell along the oviduct to the uterus. The uterus, also known as the womb, is a soft muscular bag with a soft lining that houses a foetus until birth. The cervix is ring of muscle at the lower end of the uterus. It keeps the baby in place when a woman is pregnant. Finally, the vagina is the muscular tube that leads from the cervix to outside the women's body. During sexual intercourse the vagina is where the male's penis enters.

