

Chapter 46

Animal Reproduction

Lecture Presentations by Nicole Tunbridge and Kathleen Fitzpatrick

Concept 46.1: Both asexual and sexual reproduction occur in the animal kingdom

- Sexual reproduction is the creation of an offspring by fusion of haploid gametes, male sperm and female eggs, to form a diploid zygote
- Asexual reproduction is creation of offspring without the fusion of egg and sperm

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Mechanisms of Asexual Reproduction

- Budding is a simple form of asexual reproduction found only among invertebrates
- New individuals arise from outgrowths of existing ones
- Many invertebrates reproduce asexually by fission, separation of a parent into two or more individuals of about the same size
- Parthenogenesis is the development of a new individual from an unfertilized egg
- Parthenogenesis is mainly observed in invertebrates, but is observed rarely in some vertebrates

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Variation in Patterns of Sexual Reproduction

- For many sexually reproducing animals, finding a partner for reproduction can be challenging
- In hermaphroditism, each individual has both male and female reproductive systems
- Any two individuals can mate under this system, and in some species, hermaphrodites can also selffertilize
- Several organisms can change their sex under certain circumstances

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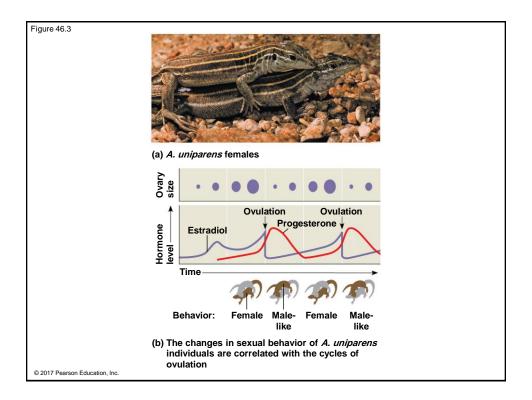
Reproductive Cycles

- Most animals exhibit reproductive cycles related to changing seasons
- Reproductive cycles are controlled by hormones and environmental cues
- Ovulation is the release of mature eggs at the midpoint of a female cycle
- Because seasonal temperature is often an important cue in reproduction, climate change can decrease reproductive success

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- Some organisms can reproduce sexually or asexually, depending on conditions
- Several genera of fishes, amphibians, and lizards reproduce by a form of parthenogenesis that involves the doubling of chromosomes after meiosis
- Asexual whiptail lizards are descended from a sexual species, and females still exhibit mating behaviors

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- Sexual reproduction may enhance reproductive success of parents when environmental factors change relatively rapidly
- This is due to their production of genetically varied offspring
- Asexual reproduction is expected to be most advantageous in stable, favorable environments

Concept 46.2: Fertilization depends on mechanisms that bring together sperm and eggs of the same species

- Fertilization, the union of egg and sperm, can be external or internal
- In external fertilization, eggs shed by the female are fertilized by sperm in the external environment
- A moist habitat is always required for external fertilization to allow sperm to swim to the egg and to prevent the gametes from drying out

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Figure 46.5



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- Internal fertilization is an adaptation that enables sperm to reach an egg despite a dry external environment
- Internal fertilization requires behavioral interactions and compatible copulatory organs
- Mating animals may make use of pheromones, chemicals released by one organism that influence the physiology and behavior of individuals of the same species

Ensuring the Survival of Offspring

- Internal fertilization is typically associated with production of fewer gametes but the survival of a higher fraction of zygotes
- Internal fertilization is also often associated with mechanisms to provide <u>protection of embryos and</u> <u>parental care of young</u>

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Figure 46.6

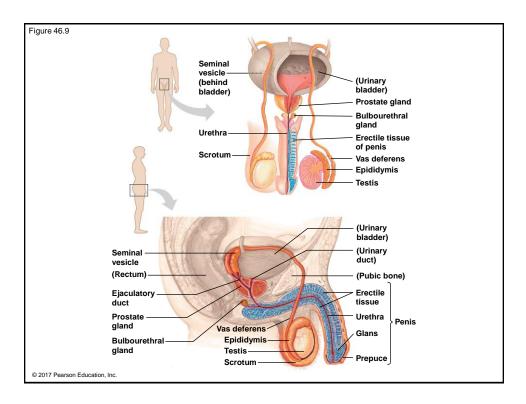


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Human Male Reproductive Anatomy

- The male's external reproductive organs are the scrotum and penis
- Internal organs are:
 - > the **gonads**, which produce sperm and hormones
 - accessory glands that secrete products needed for sperm movement
 - ducts that carry sperm and glandular secretions

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Testes

- The male gonads, or testes, consist of highly coiled tubes surrounded by connective tissue
- Sperm form in these seminiferous tubules
- Production of normal sperm cannot occur at the body temperatures of most mammals
- The testes of many mammals are held outside the abdominal cavity in the scrotum, where the temperature is lower than in the abdominal cavity

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Ducts

- From the seminiferous tubules of a testis, sperm pass into the coiled duct of the epididymis
- In humans, it takes 3 weeks for the sperm to travel the length of this duct
- During ejaculation, sperm are propelled through the muscular vas deferens and the ejaculatory duct, and then exit the penis through the urethra

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Accessory Glands

- Semen is composed of sperm plus secretions from three sets of accessory glands
- The two seminal vesicles contribute about 60% of the total volume of semen
- The prostate gland secretes its products directly into the urethra through several small ducts
- The bulbourethral glands secrete a clear mucus before ejaculation that neutralizes acidic urine remaining in the urethra

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Penis

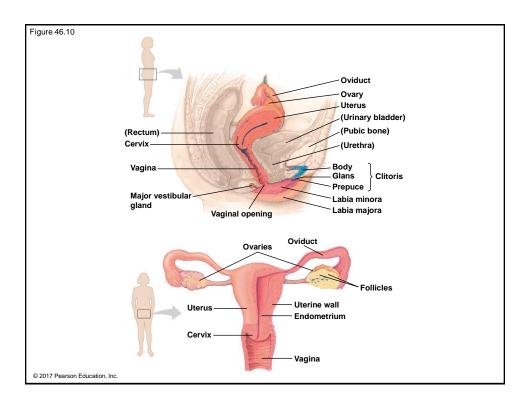
- The human **penis** is composed of three cylinders of spongy erectile tissue
- During sexual arousal, the erectile tissue fills with blood from the arteries, causing an erection
- The head of the penis, or glans, has a thinner skin covering than the shaft and is more sensitive to stimulation

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Human Female Reproductive Anatomy

- The female external reproductive structures include the clitoris and two sets of labia
- The internal organs are a pair of gonads and a system of ducts and chambers that carry gametes and house the embryo and fetus

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Ovaries

- The female gonads, the ovaries, flank the uterus in the abdominal cavity
- Each ovary contains many follicles, which consist of a partially developed egg, called an oocyte, surrounded by support cells

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Oviducts and Uterus

- The egg cell travels from the ovary to the uterus via an oviduct, or fallopian tube
- Cilia in the oviduct convey the egg to the uterus, also called the womb
- The uterus lining, the endometrium, has many blood vessels
- The uterus narrows at the cervix, then opens into the vagina

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Vagina and Vulva

- The vagina is a muscular but elastic chamber that is the repository for sperm during copulation and serves as the birth canal
- The vagina opens to the outside at the vulva, which consists of the labia majora, labia minora, hymen, and clitoris
- The clitoris has a head called a glans covered by the prepuce, a small hood of skin
- The vagina, labia minora, and clitoris are rich with blood vessels; the clitoris also has many nerve endings

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Mammary Glands

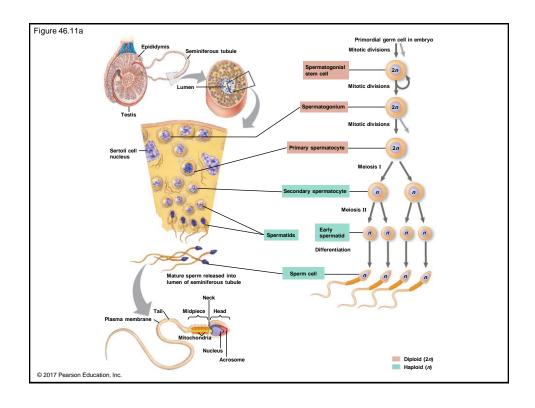
- The mammary glands are not part of the reproductive system but are important to mammalian reproduction
- Within the glands, small sacs of epithelial tissue secrete milk

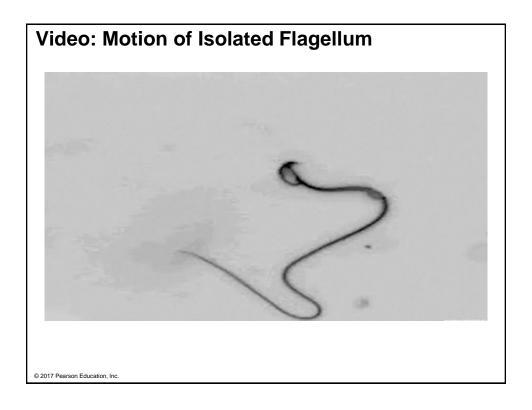
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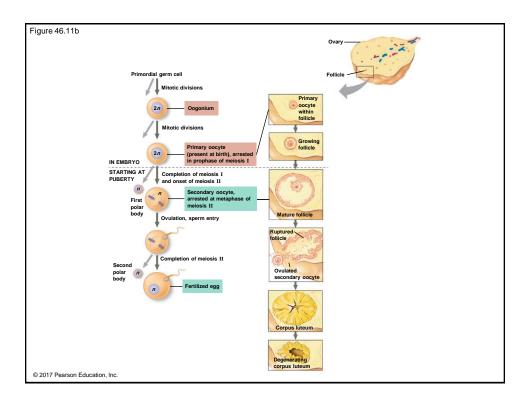
Gametogenesis

- Gametogenesis is the production of gametes
- Spermatogenesis, the formation of sperm, is continuous and prolific
 - Hundreds of millions of sperm are produced per day;
 each sperm takes about 7 weeks to develop
- Oogenesis, the development of a mature egg, is a prolonged process
 - Immature eggs form in the female embryo but do not complete their development until years or decades later

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- Spermatogenesis differs from oogenesis in three ways:
 - All four products of meiosis develop into sperm, while only one of the four becomes an egg
 - Spermatogenesis occurs throughout adolescence and adulthood
 - Sperm are produced continuously without the prolonged interruptions in oogenesis

Concept 46.4: The interplay of tropic and sex hormones regulates reproduction in mammals

- Mammalian reproduction is coordinated by hormones
- FSH (follicle-stimulating hormone) and LH (luteinizing hormone) stimulate sex hormone production by the gonads
- The main sex hormones are steroid hormones
- Testosterone is the main androgen
- Estrogens consist of mainly estradiol and progesterone
- Sex hormones function in gamete production, sexual behavior, and the development of primary and secondary sex characteristics

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Hormonal Control of the Male Reproductive System

- FSH stimulates Sertoli cells to nourish developing sperm
- LH causes Leydig cells to produce testosterone and other androgens, which in turn promote spermatogenesis

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Hormonal Control of Female Reproductive Cycles

- Hormones closely link the two cycles of female reproduction
- Changes in the ovaries define the ovarian cycle
- Changes in the uterus define the menstrual cycle (also called the uterine cycle)

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- In each menstrual cycle, the endometrium thickens with blood vessels in preparation for embryo implantation
- If an embryo does not implant in the endometrium, the endometrium is shed in a process called menstruation

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The Ovarian Cycle

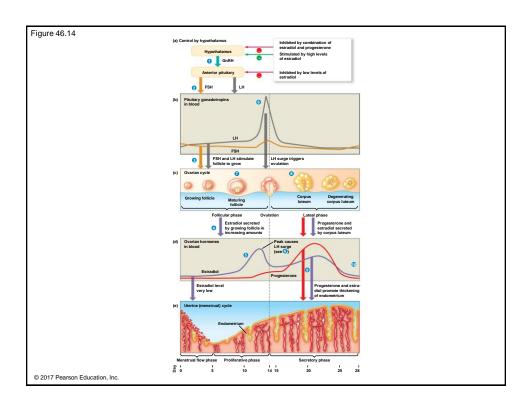
- The ovarian cycle begins when the hypothalamus releases GnRH
- The GnRH stimulates the anterior pituitary to secrete small amounts of FSH and LH
- FSH stimulates follicle growth, aided by LH
- The follicles start to make estradiol

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- When estradiol secretion by the follicle begins to rise steeply, FSH and LH levels increase markedly
- The maturing follicle enlarges to form a bulge at the surface of the ovary
- The follicular phase ends at ovulation, and the secondary oocyte is released
- The luteal phase follows ovulation

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- LH stimulates the remaining follicular tissue to form the corpus luteum
- The corpus luteum secretes progesterone and estradiol
- These exert negative feedback on the hypothalamus and pituitary to greatly reduce LH and FSH secretion, <u>preventing maturation of another egg</u>



The Uterine (Menstrual) Cycle

- Hormones coordinate the uterine cycle with the ovarian cycle
 - Thickening of the endometrium during the proliferative phase coordinates with the follicular phase
 - Secretion of nutrients during the secretory phase coordinates with the luteal phase
 - Shedding of the endometrium during the menstrual flow phase coordinates with the growth of new ovarian follicles
 - A new cycle begins if no embryo implants in the endometrium

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Menopause

- After about 500 cycles, human females undergo menopause, the cessation of ovulation and menstruation
- Menopause is very unusual among animals
- Menopause might have evolved to allow a mother to provide better care for her children and grandchildren

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Human Sexual Response

- Two reactions predominate in both sexes:
 - Vasocongestion, the filling of tissue with blood
 - Myotonia, increased muscle tension
- The sexual response cycle has four phases:
 excitement, plateau, orgasm, and resolution
- Excitement prepares the penis and vagina for coitus (sexual intercourse)

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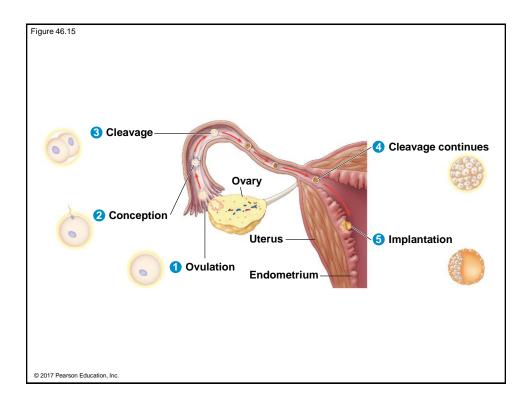
- Direct stimulation of genitalia maintains the plateau phase and prepares the vagina for receipt of sperm
- Orgasm is characterized by rhythmic contractions of reproductive structures
 - In males, semen is first released into the urethra and then ejaculated from the urethra
 - In females, the uterus and outer vagina contract
- During the resolution phase, organs return to their normal state and muscles relax

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Concept 46.5: In placental mammals, an embryo develops fully within the mother's uterus

- Conception, fertilization of an egg by a sperm, occurs in the oviduct
- The resulting zygote begins to divide by mitosis in a process called cleavage
- Division of cells gives rise to a blastocyst, a ball of cells with a central cavity

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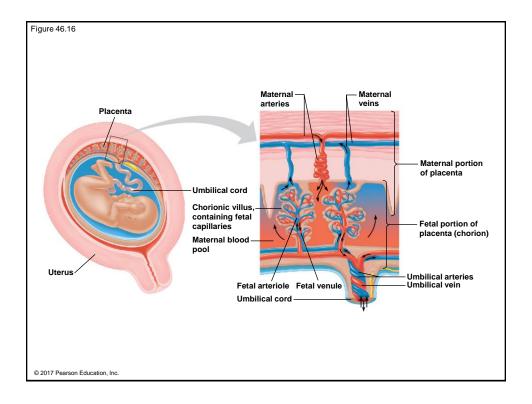


- After blastocyst formation, the embryo implants into the endometrium
- Pregnancy, or gestation, is the condition of carrying one or more embryos in the uterus
- Duration of pregnancy in other species correlates with body size and maturity of the young at birth
- The roughly nine months of human gestation are divided into three trimesters of equal length

First Trimester

- The implanted embryo secretes hormones that signal its presence and regulate the mother's reproductive system
- One such hormone, human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG), maintains secretion of progesterone and estrogens during early pregnancy
- Not all embryos are capable of completing development
- Many spontaneously stop developing due to chromosomal or other developmental abnormalities
- Rarely, a fertilized egg lodges in a fallopian tube, resulting in an ectopic pregnancy

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- Splitting of the embryo during the first month of development results in genetically identical (monozygotic) twins
- Release and fertilization of two eggs result in fraternal and genetically distinct (dizygotic) twins
- The first trimester is the main period of organogenesis, development of the body organs
- All the major structures are present by 8 weeks, and the embryo is called a **fetus**

Figure 46.17





(a) 5 weeks

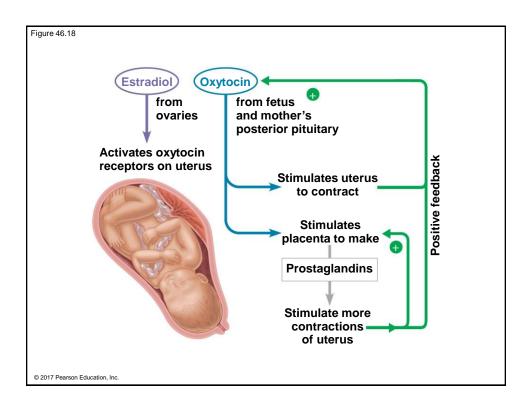
(b) 14 weeks

Second and Third Trimesters

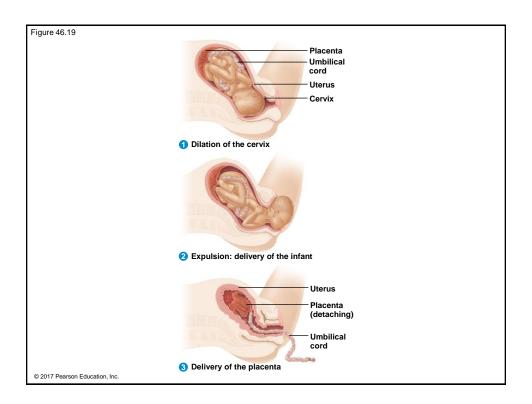
- During the second trimester
 - The fetus grows and is very active
 - The mother may feel fetal movements
 - Hormone levels stabilize
 - The placenta takes over the production of progesterone, the hormone that maintains the pregnancy

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- During the third trimester, the fetus grows and fills the space within the embryonic membranes
- Childbirth begins with labor, a series of strong, rhythmic uterine contractions that push the fetus and placenta out of the body
- Labor is regulated by prostaglandins and hormones such as estradiol and oxytocin



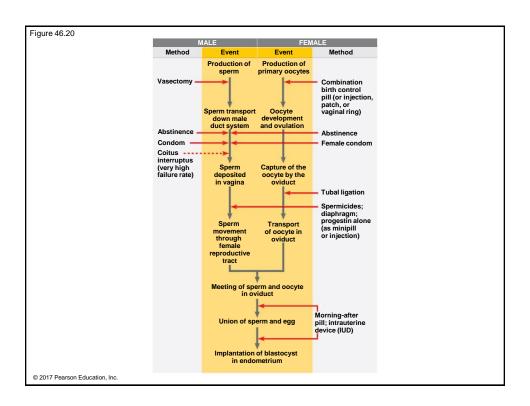
- Labor typically has three stages:
 - Thinning and opening of the cervix, or dilation
 - Expulsion, or delivery, of the baby
 - Delivery of the placenta
- Postnatal care in mammals includes lactation, the production of mother's milk



Contraception and Abortion

- Contraception, the deliberate prevention of pregnancy, can be achieved in a number of ways
- Contraceptive methods fall into three categories:
 - Preventing release of eggs and sperm
 - Keeping sperm and egg apart
 - Preventing implantation of an embryo

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- The rhythm method, or natural family planning, is to refrain from intercourse when conception is most likely; it has a pregnancy rate of 10–20%
- Coitus interruptus, the withdrawal of the penis before ejaculation, is unreliable
- Barrier methods block fertilization with a pregnancy rate of less than 10%
 - A condom fits over the penis
 - A diaphragm is inserted into the vagina before intercourse

- Intrauterine devices (IUDs) are inserted into the uterus and interfere with fertilization and implantation; the pregnancy rate is less than 1%
- Female birth control pills are hormonal contraceptives with a pregnancy rate of less than 1%
- Latex condoms are the only contraceptives that are effective in preventing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases

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- Sterilization is permanent and prevents the release of gametes
 - Tubal ligation ties off the oviducts
 - Vasectomy ties off the vas deferens
- Abortion is the termination of a pregnancy
- Spontaneous abortion, or miscarriage, occurs in up to one-third of all pregnancies
- The drug RU486 terminates a pregnancy nonsurgically within the first 7 weeks

Infertility and In Vitro Fertilization

- Causes of infertility are quite varied, with men and women equally affected
- Among preventable causes of infertility, STDs are most significant
- In vitro fertilization (IVF) mixes eggs with sperm in culture dishes and returns the embryo to the uterus at the eight-cell stage
- Sperm or sperm nuclei can also be injected directly into an oocyte

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