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| **Key term** | **Definition** |
| adaptation | Characteristic that helps an organism survive in its environment |
| adolescence | The period of time when a child changes into an adult. |
| amniotic fluid | Liquid that surrounds and protects the fetus. |
| cervix | The ring of muscle at the entrance to the uterus. It keeps the baby in place while the woman is pregnant. |
| cilia | Tiny hairs on the surface of cells. |
| condom | A barrier method of contraception that prevents semen being released into the vagina. |
| continuous variation | Where differences in characteristics between living things can have any numerical value. |
| contraception | A method of preventing pregnancy. |
| contraceptive pill | A chemical method of contraception. |
| discontinuous variation | Where differences in characteristics between living things can only be grouped into categories. |
| egg cell | The female sex cell. |
| ejaculation | When semen is released from the penis. |
| embryo | A ball of cells that forms when the fertilised egg divides. |
| environmental variation | Variation (differences) between organisms caused by environmental factors. |
| fertilisation | Joining of a nucleus from a male and female sex cell. |
| fetus | The developing baby during pregnancy (from eight weeks after fertilisation). |
| gamete | The male gamete (sex cell) in animals is a sperm, the female gamete is an egg. |
| gestation | Process where the baby develops during pregnancy. |
| implantation | The process where an embryo attaches to the lining of the uterus. |
| inherited variation | Variation (differences) between organisms caused by genetic factors. |
| menstrual cycle (period) | The monthly cycle during which the uterus lining thickens and then breaks down. |
| menstruation | Loss of the lining of the uterus during the menstrual cycle. |
| ovary | Organ that contains eggs. |
| oviduct (fallopian tube) | Carries an egg from the ovary to the uterus and is where fertilisation occurs. |
| ovulation | Release of an egg during the menstrual cycle. |
| penis | Organ that carries sperm out of the male’s body. |
| placenta | Organ that provides the fetus with oxygen and nutrients and removes waste substances. It also acts as a barrier, stopping infections and harmful substances reaching the fetus. |
| puberty | The physical changes that take place during adolescence. |
| reproductive system | All the male and female organs involved in reproduction. The organ systems that produce sperm and eggs, also where the fetus develops. |
| scrotum | The bag of skin that holds the testicles. |
| semen | Fluid containing sperm. |
| sex hormones | Hormones that are involved in the reproductive system, including testosterone in males and oestrogen in females. |
| sexual intercourse | The process where the penis releases semen into the vagina. |
| species | A group of living things that have more in common with each than they do with other groups. This allows them to mate to produce fertile offspring. |
| sperm cell | Male sex cell containing male genetic material. |
| sperm duct | Tube that carries sperm from the testicles to the penis. |
| testicles (testes) | Organ where sperm and testosterone are produced. |
| umbilical cord | Connects the fetus to the placenta. |
| urethra | Tube that carries urine or sperm out of the body. |
| uterus (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. |