

Back-to-basics **biology**

This is a cheat sheet on basic sexual biology. Use it to refresh your memory from health class. (This will not be on the test.) Feel free to circle whether you knew it or didn't know it.

ACCESSORY ORGANS—Sperm cells aren't capable of self-movement until ejaculation, and they're activated by seminal plasma fluid secreted by the prostate gland, ejaculatory ducts, seminal vesicles, and bulbourethral glands. These organs are important even though they can't be seen.
knew it/didn't know it

CERVIX—The opening from the vagina into the uterus, located at the far (internal) end of the vagina.
knew it/didn't know it

CLITORIS—The only organ in the human anatomy designed solely for sexual stimulation, the female clitoris is a two- to three-centimeter funnel loaded with nerve endings. It's very sensitive both to pleasure and pain.
knew it/didn't know it

CORONAL RIDGE—The bulge near the end of the penis is called the coronal ridge.
knew it/didn't know it

GLANS (OR HEAD)—If a male has been circumcised, the glans is visible at the end of the penis. If a male hasn't been circumcised, the glans is covered with loose skin called the **foreskin**.
knew it/didn't know it

LABIA MAJORA—The outermost ridges of the vulva designed to protect the rest of the vagina. If a female hasn't given birth, the outer lips of the labia majora probably meet at the center of her genitals.
knew it/didn't know it

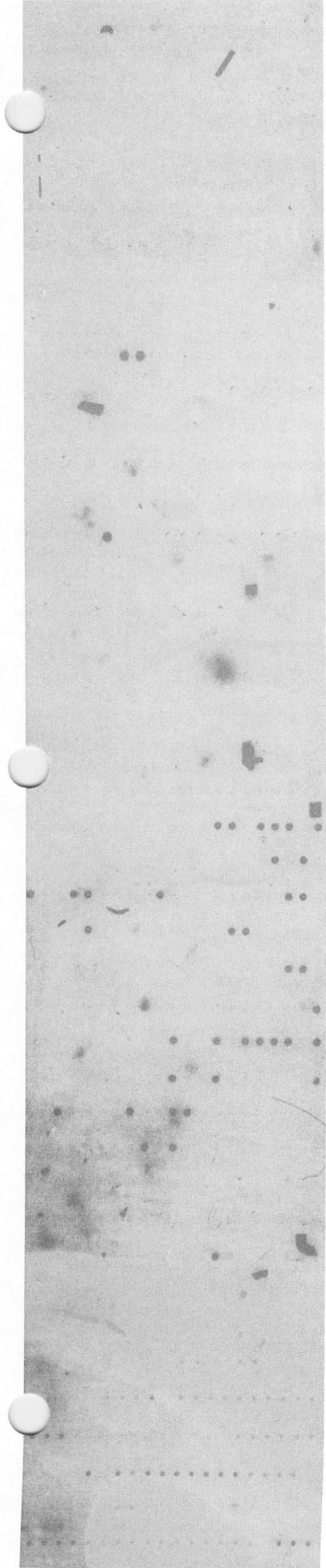
OVARIES—The ovaries are female internal organs shaped like large almonds. They are located on either side of the uterus and produce some of the sex hormones that affect the menstrual cycle. But their primary function is to release one of about 400,000 eggs for reproduction 14 days before menstruation begins. The egg is either fertilized by a male's sperm and implants itself in the uterus, or it's discharged from the body with the menstrual blood flow. This process begins in puberty and continues until menopause.
knew it/didn't know it

PENIS—The penis is the external male organ for sexual intercourse and introduces sperm into the vagina. During sexual excitement, blood is temporarily trapped in the chambers of the erectile tissue in the penis, causing the penis to become enlarged, firm, and erect.
knew it/didn't know it

SCROTUM—A pouch in the male genital anatomy that holds two glands called the testes.
knew it/didn't know it

Information adapted from these resources:

- Clifford and Joyce Penner, *The Gift of Sex: A Christian Guide to Sexual Fulfillment* (Word Books, April 1982).
- *Encyclopaedia Britannica* CD 98. Encyclopaedia Britannica.



SHAFT—The cylindrical structure of the penis.
knew it/didn't know it

SPERM—Cells from a male that are capable of fertilizing a mature egg in the female reproductive system. The process of sexual arousal and ejaculation activates the otherwise immobile cells so they become self-propelled in the seminal fluid by means of a tiny tail that whips from side to side. Sperm are available more or less on demand in quantities of around 300 million cells per ejaculation. Under favorable conditions sperm live about three days after ejaculation.
knew it/didn't know it

TESTES—The testes (the primary male reproductive organ) are two small glands that move around in the scrotum and generate sperm.
knew it/didn't know it

UTERUS (WOMB)—A pear-shaped muscular organ in the female reproductive system, located between the urinary bladder and rectum and connecting through the cervix to the vagina. The lining of the uterus, the endometrium, secretes fluids that keep eggs and sperm alive and nourish fertilized eggs. If a mature egg isn't fertilized, it's flushed out with the endometrium through the vagina during menstruation.
knew it/didn't know it

URETHRA—A thin tube that carries urine from the bladder out of the body. In the male, the urethra also carries sperm from the seminal vesicles out through the penis.
knew it/didn't know it

VAGINA—A tube-shaped canal that leads from outside the body to the uterus, adapts in size to receive the penis during intercourse and expands to accommodate a baby during delivery.
knew it/didn't know it

VULVA—The external female genitalia that surround the opening to the vagina.
knew it/didn't know it