

FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

Read and complete the text with the following words. Write them in **CAPITAL LETTERS**:

OVULATION

PREGNANCY

FERTILIZED

MENSTRUAL

BIRTH

URETHRA

OUTSIDE

KEEPS

ABDOMEN

CARRY

UTERUS

CONTRACT

The female reproductive system is made up of internal organs that are located in the lower _____ and an external organ that is called vulva.

The ovaries

Women have two ovaries. Each ovary contains thousands of tiny eggs. When these eggs are _____ by a male's sperm, they have the potential to grow into a baby.

From the time a girl is born, her ovaries already contain all the eggs she will ever have, that is, the ovaries do not make eggs but simply store them during a woman's lifetime.

When girls begin to have the period, about 10-20 eggs mature inside their two ovaries each menstrual cycle. Only one of this small number of maturing eggs will be selected to be released from one of her ovaries. This process is called _____. Ovaries take turns to release eggs.

The fallopian tubes

The two fallopian tubes connect the ovary to the uterus. The fallopian tubes are about 10 centimeters long and about as wide as a piece of spaghetti. Their function is to _____ the egg from the ovary to the uterus. Once the egg is in the fallopian tube, it stays there for about 24 hours to be fertilized by a sperm. If a sperm does not appear within a day, the egg continues to travel to the _____ and then disappears.

The uterus

The vagina connects with the uterus. Its muscles are able to expand and contract to accommodate a growing fetus and then help push the baby out during labor. When a woman isn't pregnant, the uterus is only about 7.5 centimeters long and 5 centimeters wide, but it can reach about 36 cm long and 22 cm wide by the end of _____.

The lower part of the uterus is called cervix. The **cervix** has strong, thick walls. It has a very important function since it _____ the baby in place while the woman is pregnant.

The vagina

The vagina is an elastic muscular tube that connects the uterus to the _____ of the body. Its muscles can expand and _____, which allows the vagina to accommodate something as slim as a tampon and as wide as a baby. The vagina has three important functions:

- It receives penis during sexual intercourse.
- It is the _____ canal for the baby during childbirth.
- It is the route for the _____ blood to leave the body.

The vulva

The external part of the female reproductive organs is called the vulva, which means “covering” in Latin. Located between the legs, the vulva covers the opening to the vagina and the _____.