

16 Human reproduction – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	Write it 3 times (English)
gamete	_____
tail	_____
Fertilisation	_____
nucleus	_____
menstrual cycle	_____
uterus	_____
period	_____
ovulation	_____

Recall

In humans, a male **gamete** (sperm) joins a female gamete (egg) to make a new individual.

New ideas

Read these first, then do the Practice.

■ 1 The gametes

The sperm and egg are each suited to their job:

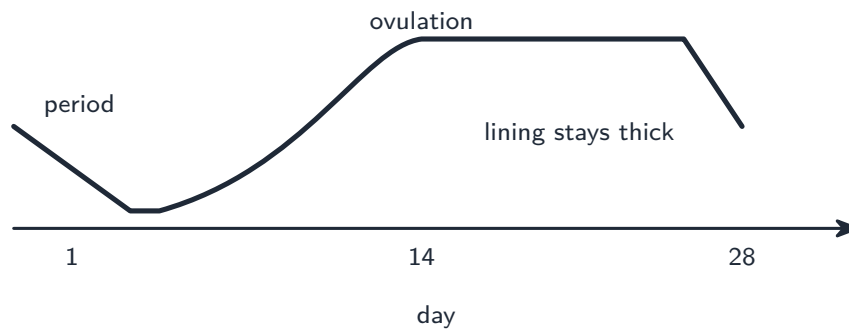


	Sperm	Egg cell
size	very small	large
number	millions	few
moves?	yes (swims with a tail)	no

Fertilisation joins the **nucleus** of a sperm with that of an egg.

■ 2 The menstrual cycle

The **menstrual cycle** (about 28 days) prepares the **uterus** for a possible pregnancy:



- days 1–5: the lining breaks down (a **period**);
- around day 14: an egg is released (**ovulation**);
- if the egg is not fertilised, the cycle starts again.

Watch out: the **sperm** is small, numerous and swims; the **egg** is large, few and cannot move – each is adapted to its job. **Ovulation** (egg released, about day 14) is not the same as the **period** (lining shed, days 1–5).

Practice

Try these in order.

16.6 Give two ways a sperm is different from an egg cell. [2]

16.7 How does a sperm move? [1]

16.8 What is *fertilisation* in humans? [1]

16.9 About how long is the menstrual cycle? [1]

16.10 What happens at ovulation, and on about which day? [2]

16.11 Challenge. The sperm cell is adapted for its job. Explain how **two** of its features help it fertilise the egg. [2]