



Conception and Pregnancy

Learning Intention:

- Children learn how a baby is made and grows (conception and pregnancy)

Learning Outcomes:

- Children:
- Know the key male and female body parts associated with conception and pregnancy
 - Can define conception and understand the importance of implantation in the womb
 - Know what pregnancy is, where it occurs and how long it takes

National Curriculum Links: Science: Sc2 – 1a, 2f

Materials and Preparation:

- Talking object
- Copy **How does pregnancy begin?** cards, enough for one set per pair (pack: Yr5&6, Ln5, W/S5)
- Copy and cut out 6 sets of **Conception and Pregnancy quiz cards** (pack: Yr5&6, Ln5, W/S6)
- Copy **Big Words, Little Words** worksheet for all (Channel 4 **Living and Growing, Unit 2, Activity Sheet 6**, page 17)

Additional/Alternative Activities:

- *How did I begin?* Mick Manning & Brita Granström, Watts
- *Let's talk about where babies come from*, Robie H. Harris, Walker
- **Conception and Pregnancy quiz** (pack: Yr5&6, Ln5, W/S6b)

🕒 1¼ hour

Introductory Activity

- **Ask the children** to remind you of the rules for these sessions
- **To re-cap learning from last week:** As a whole class, draw a timeline on the board. Ask the class to suggest what the different stages are in forming a relationship that might lead to sexual intercourse. Record on the timeline, acknowledging that it will be different for all couples
- **In pairs:** Cut out and place in the correct order the sequencing activity **How does pregnancy begin?** Feedback correct order



Main Activity

- **In small groups:** explain that each group will be given a set of cards about conception and pregnancy. On each card is a statement which the group must discuss and reach a consensus as to whether the statement is true or false and the card placed in the appropriate pile. If the group is unable to reach a consensus or they are unsure of the answer, the card should go on a third 'don't know' pile.

Closing Activity

- **Plenary Feedback:** Go through the statements, beginning with those about which the groups were unsure. Explore these in more depth if required, in particular be aware of the anonymous questions they wrote and seek to explore answers to these. Rely on the class as much as possible to provide answers to the questions
- **It may be necessary** to review conception, implantation and foetal growth using work from last lesson (see also Additional/Alternative Activities)

Additional/Alternative Activities:

- **Individually**, but encouraging discussion on tables, ask children to complete **Big Words, Little Words** worksheet
- **In pairs**, complete the **conception and pregnancy quiz** (pack: **Yr5&6, Ln5, W/S6**). Feedback answers to the whole class and clarify any misunderstandings. (This has the same statements as the cards)
- **How did I begin?** Mick Manning & Brita Granström. A simple re-cap of material covered so far including answers to new questions such as: how are twins made, what makes me look like me, what are contractions and what is a caesarean?
- **Let's talk about where babies come from**, Robie H. Harris. Includes appropriate text and cartoon illustrations on all the material covered, including conception, pregnancy, twins and birth. There are some useful cartoon strips stories on key ideas such as eggs (**The Amazing Egg Trip** p 18), sperm (**The Amazing Sperm Trip** p22) and conception (**The Big Race: Sperm and Egg Meet** p 34)



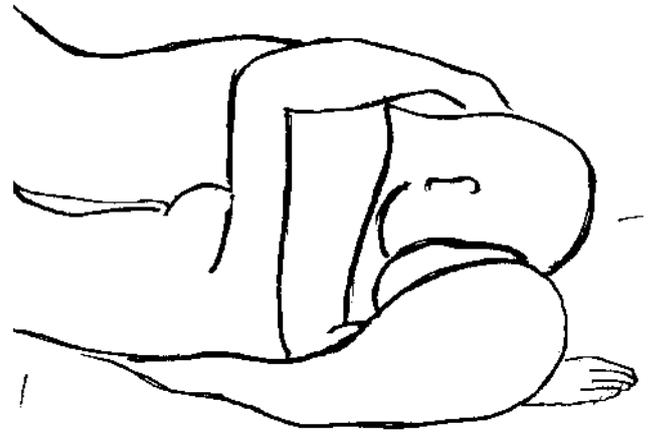
How does pregnancy begin?



When an adult couple are in a relationship they may make love. This is when they take pleasure in touching each other in sexual ways. It should make them happy.

Yr586 • Ln5 • W/s 5

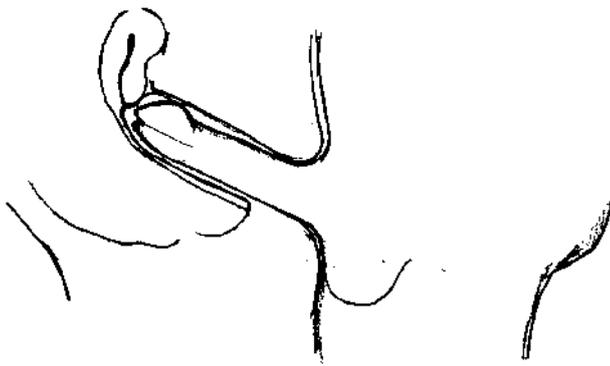
How does pregnancy begin?



Sometimes when a man and woman are making love the man's penis gets stiff and the woman's vagina gets slippery.

Yr586 • Ln5 • W/s 5

How does pregnancy begin?



Now the woman's vagina can take the man's penis inside it. This is called sexual intercourse.

Yr586 • Ln5 • W/s 5

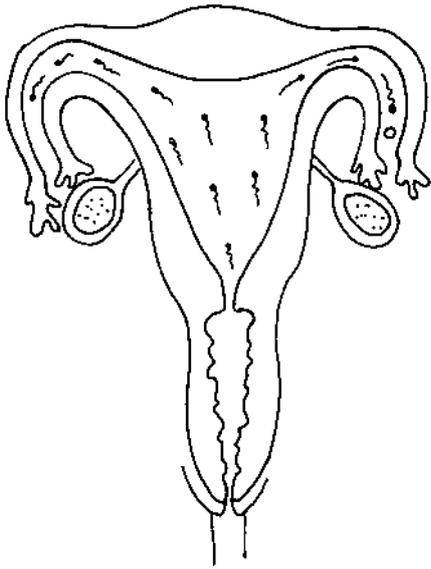
How does pregnancy begin?



After a while liquid is pushed out of the end of the man's penis. Swimming in this liquid are millions of sperm.

Yr586 • Ln5 • W/s 5

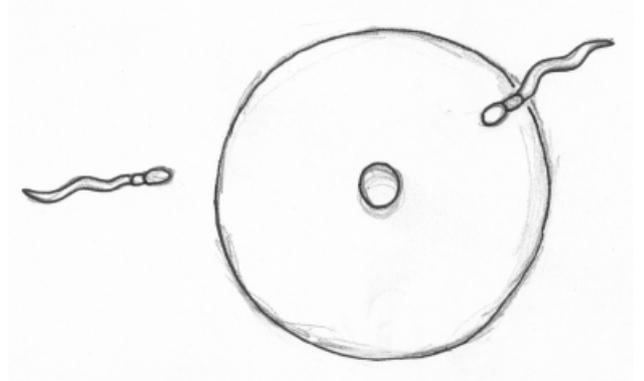
How does pregnancy begin?



The sperm swim into the woman's womb and then onto the fallopian tubes.

Yr5&6 • Ln5 • W/s 5

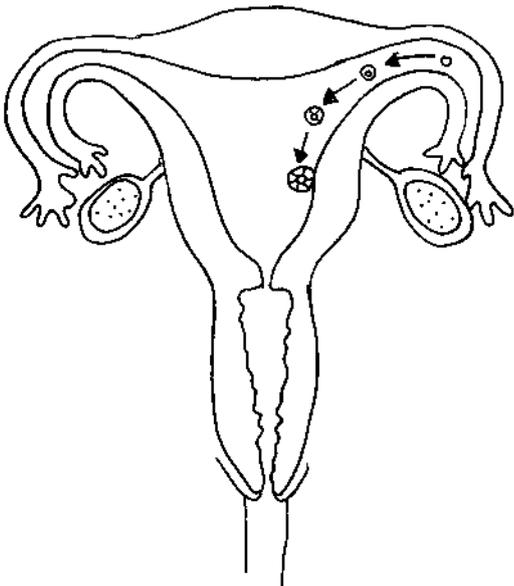
How does pregnancy begin?



If there is an egg in one of the tubes it may join up with one of the sperm. The egg is now fertilised.

Yr5&6 • Ln5 • W/s 5

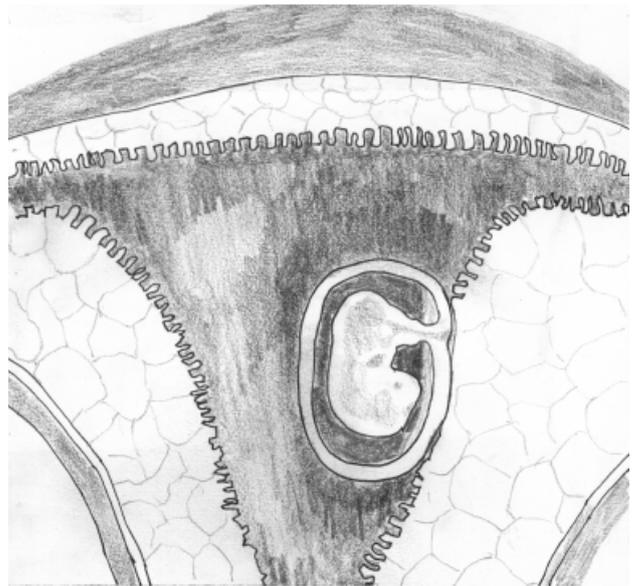
How does pregnancy begin?



The fertilised egg travels down the tube to the womb. As it travels it grows. The 2 cells, one from the egg and one from the sperm, divide into 4 cells, then 8, then 16 and so on...

Yr5&6 • Ln5 • W/s 5

How does pregnancy begin?



About 8 days later the fertilised egg reaches the womb and attaches itself to the side. The woman is now pregnant. The baby should grow in the womb for 9 months until it is born.

Yr5&6 • Ln5 • W/s 5

A girl can become pregnant just before she has her first period

When a woman is pregnant her periods stop

The first time a woman has sexual intercourse she cannot get pregnant

All pregnant women feel sick in the morning

A woman can become pregnant without having sexual intercourse

The ovum (egg) meets the sperm in the woman's vagina

A woman can have a pregnancy test to find out if she is pregnant

All babies are born after being inside their mothers for 9 months

Pregnancy begins when the sperm fertilises the egg

It only takes one sperm to fertilise an egg

The umbilical cord provides the foetus with oxygen and nutrition in the mother's blood

Sperm leaves a man's body when he ejaculates

What do we know about conception and pregnancy?

- 1. A girl can become pregnant just before she has her first period • TRUE**

Yes, she could get pregnant just before her first period. An egg/ovum would be present but she would have no idea that she was just about to start menstruating
- 2. It only takes one sperm to fertilise an egg • TRUE**

It only takes one sperm to fertilise an egg although when having sex a man will ejaculate about one teaspoonful of semen containing around 300 million sperm
- 3. Pregnancy begins when the sperm fertilises the egg • FALSE**

Conception/fertilisation does not always lead to pregnancy. Current law says that pregnancy actually begins when the cells settle in the womb/uterus lining (implantation) where they can become established and developed the life-support systems that an embryo needs (Be aware that cultural and religious beliefs about when pregnancy/ life starts will vary). Many fertilised eggs do not implant – they pass out of the body without a woman noticing
- 4. The first time a woman has sexual intercourse she cannot get pregnant • FALSE**

As long as egg and sperm can meet that's all you need
- 5. A woman can become pregnant without having sexual intercourse • TRUE**

IVF, surrogacy. Used for couples who cannot have own children. If this is a medical problem it is called infertility
- 6. A woman can have a pregnancy test to find out if she is pregnant • TRUE**

Yes, from chemists or doctors. Should go to the doctor to confirm it so that she can decide what to do next
- 7. The ovum (egg) meets a man's sperm in the woman's vagina • FALSE**

The ovum and sperm meet in the fallopian tubes. This is so they can travel into the womb/uterus and implant. If the egg is in the vagina the woman is menstruating
- 8. When a woman is pregnant her periods stop • TRUE**

Yes as the womb lining needs to stay inside her body as the embryo is implanted in it. Some women experience some bleeding during pregnancy and they will go to the doctor to see if they need any help
- 9. All pregnant women feel sick in the morning • FALSE**

Some do. Some feel sick in the evening. What other signs of pregnancy are there?

Conception & Pregnancy Answers



10. All babies are born after being inside their mother for 9 months • FALSE

9 months is 40 weeks which is term. Introduce idea of premature babies and special care if appropriate

11. Sperm leaves a mans body when he ejaculates • TRUE

Ejaculation occurs when strong muscles at the base of the penis contract and send the sperm shooting out of the penis. This is to ensure they travel as far as possible and get as close as possible to the egg

12. The umbilical cord provides the foetus with oxygen and nutrition in the mother's blood • TRUE

A foetus doesn't breathe using its lungs and it doesn't digest food like we do. The mother eats and breathes and then nutrients and oxygen are passed into her blood. Her blood then passes through the umbilical cord into the foetus' body where it absorbs what it needs. The umbilical cord becomes our belly button.



Conception & Pregnancy Quiz

What do we know about conception and pregnancy?

	DO YOU THINK THESE STATEMENTS ARE TRUE?	TRUE	FALSE	UNSURE
1	A girl can become pregnant just before she has her first period			
2	It only takes one sperm to fertilise an egg			
3	Pregnancy begins when the sperm fertilises the egg			
4	The first time a woman has sexual intercourse she cannot get pregnant			
5	A woman can become pregnant without having sexual intercourse			
6	A woman can have a pregnancy test to find out if she is pregnant			
7	The ovum (egg) meets a man's sperm in the woman's vagina			
8	When a woman is pregnant her periods stop			
9	All pregnant women feel sick in the morning			
10	All babies are born after being inside their mother for 9 months			
11	Sperm leaves a man's body when he ejaculates			
12	The umbilical cord provides the foetus with oxygen and nutrition in the mother's blood			