

Lesson 6.1 Glossary

C

Cervix – A part of the reproductive tract of female mammals that forms a seal or doorway between the uterus and vagina.

Cowper's gland – An accessory gland in the male reproductive system that produces a fluid, which moves ahead of the seminal fluid, cleansing and neutralizing the urethra.

Cryptorchid – A male animal in which one or both testicles remained in the body cavity and did not descend into the scrotum during embryonic development.

E

Endocrine system – The bodily system that consists of the endocrine glands and functions to regulate body activities.

Epididymis – A small, tortuous tube leading from the testicle. A site of sperm storage and maturation.

Estrogen – A hormone or group of hormones produced by the developing ovarian follicle; it stimulates female sex drive and controls the development of feminine characteristics.

Estrus – The period of sexual excitement (heat), at which time the female will accept coitus with the male.

F

Fallopian tubes – One of the two tubes or ducts connected to the uterus of mammals and leading to the ovary; functions in transporting the ovum from the ovary to the uterus.

H

Hormone – A chemical substance formed in some organ of the body, secreted directly into the blood, and carried to another organ or tissue, where it produces a specific effect.

I

Infundibulum – The enlarged, funnel-shaped structure on the end of the fallopian tubes that functions in collecting the ova during ovulation.

L

Ligament – Any tough, dense, fibrous band that connects bones or supports viscera.

M

Maturation – Becoming mature.

O

Ovum (Egg) – The female sex cell, produced on the ovary, and carrying a sample of half of the genes carried in the female in which it was produced. Plural, ova.

Ovary – The organ in female animals that produces the egg or ovum.

Oviduct – The tube that leads from the ovary to the uterus or other organs where fertilization or further development of the ovum or egg cell occurs. Also called fallopian tube, tubes.

P

Parturition – The act of giving birth.

Penis – The male organ of sexual union.

Prostate – One of the accessory glands of the male reproductive system that encircles the neck of the bladder where it joins the urethra.

R

Reproduction – The production of offspring by organized bodies; reproduction by the fusion of a female sexual cell and a male sexual cell.

Reproductive system – The organs of the body, either male or female, concerned with producing offspring.

S

Scrotum – In most male mammals, the pouch of skin containing the testicles and related structures.

Semen – A fluid substance produced by the male reproductive system containing spermatozoa suspended in secretions of the accessory glands.

Seminal vesicle – A gland attached to the urethra, near the bladder, and which produces fluids to carry and nourish the sperm.

Seminiferous tubules – Minute tubules in the testicles in which sperm are produced. They comprise about 90% of the mass of the testes.

Sex character – The peculiarity of appearance, other than the presence of sex organs, that distinguishes one sex from another, such as the thick neck and bold, rugged head of a bull as contrasted to the more finely turned neck and head of a cow. Technically, these are secondary sex characteristics.

Sigmoid flexure – An S-shaped fold in the penis of a bull, ram or boar that straightens during erection and allows it to extend from the sheath for copulation.

Sperm – The male sex cell, produced by the testicles.

T

Testicle – Male sex organ, which produces sperm after sexual maturity. Plural, testes or testicles.

Testosterone – A hormone produced by the interstitial cells of the testes that functions in stimulating male sex drive, masculine characteristics, development of the male reproductive tract, and spermatogenesis.

U

Urethra – In most mammals, the canal or tube that carries the urine away from the bladder and serves as a duct for the passage of the male's semen.

Uterus – The womb; in female mammals, an organ in which the young develops before birth.

V

Vagina – The canal in female mammals extending from the uterus to the vulva.

Vas deferens – Tube connecting the epididymis of the testicle to the urethra; the sperm conducting ducts.

Vulva – The external genital, which are the reproductive organs of the female; the opening to the vagina.