

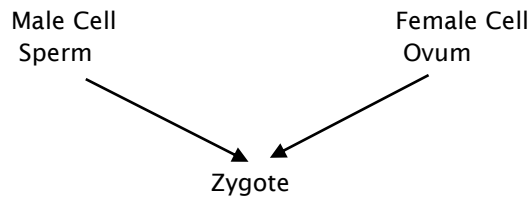
REPRODUCTION

There are two types of reproduction in animals :

1. Sexual Reproduction
2. Asexual Reproduction

SEXUAL REPRODUCTION

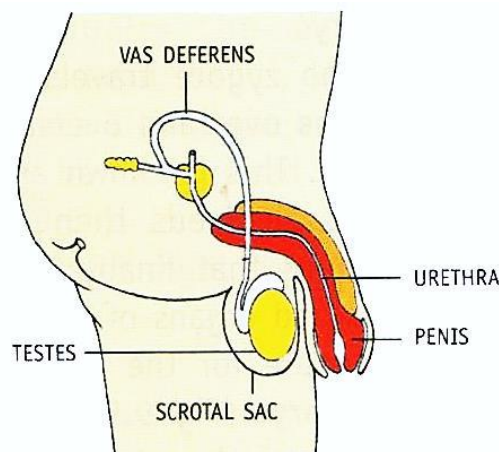
It involves the fusion of female and male reproductive cells to form a fertilized egg that grows into an organism. An individual produces only one kind of reproductive cell or gamete.



This process is known as fertilization.

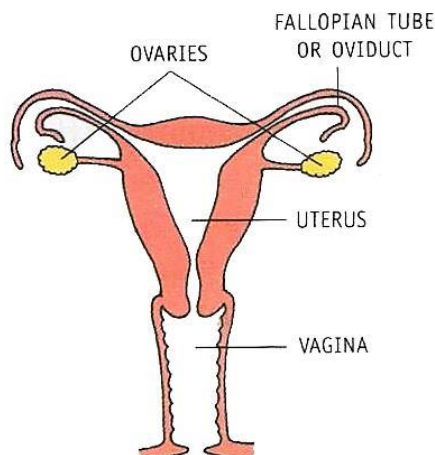
MALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

In males, the reproductive organs are a pair of testes. They are located outside the abdominal cavity in a sac called the scrotal sac. The testes secrete the male hormone testosterone. The sperms leave each testis through a sperm duct or vas deferens. The mixture of fluids and sperms is called semen. The penis is the organ that transfers sperms into the vagina of the female's body.



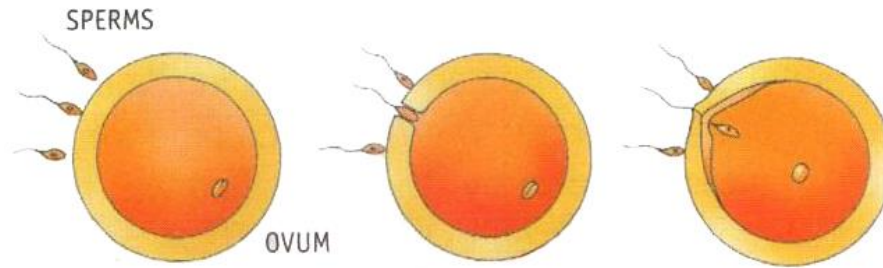
THE FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

The female reproductive system includes a pair of ovaries, the oviducts, the uterus and the vagina. The ovaries produce the ovum. The release of the ovum from the ovary is called ovulation. The ovaries secrete the female hormones oestrogen and progesterone. The ovum travels through the oviduct to the uterus the uterus opens to the outside through the vagina.



FERTILIZATION

After the sperms are deposited into the vagina by the penis, the sperms swim into the uterus and up the oviducts. If an ovum is present in an oviduct, one of the sperms may fuse with the ovum and fertilization takes place. During fertilization, the nuclei of the male cell the sperm and the ovum fuse together to form a single nucleus. This results in the formation of zygote which marks the beginning of a new individual.



TEST TUBE BABY TECHNOLOGY

In this technique, freshly matured ova collected from a woman's ovaries by using a special syringe and semen from the man are kept in an incubator. The sperms fertilize the ova to form an embryo. After a week, the embryo thus formed is then inserted into the woman's womb where the embryo gets implanted and develops into a baby in about nine months. The baby thus produced is called a test tube baby and the technique is known as in vitro fertilization (IVF)