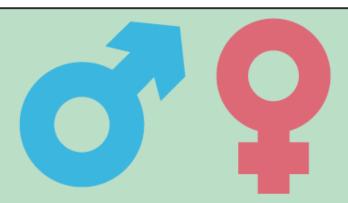
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How does sex work?

Since we are teenagers, we are capable of sexually reproducing. Sex plays an important role in most cultures.

From a biological perspective, the objective of sex is to merge two sets of genetic information, from the parents, to make a baby that is genetically different from them.

The body's sexual organs

The male

The male has two visible organs, the testes and penis. The testes are the primary male sexual organs in that they make sperm and produce testosterone. The sperm cell is the male sex cell (gamete). Testosterone is the hormone that causes male secondary sex characteristics such as facial and pubic hair, thickened vocal cords and developed muscles.

The female

The female's sexual organs are located within her body, except the vulva. The vulva consists of two sets of folded skin that cover the opening to the reproductive tract, and a small nub of sensitive erectile tissue called clitoris, which is the remnant of the fetal penis.

The two ovaries are the major female sex organs, the counterpart of the male testes. The ovaries make the egg, or oocytes, which are the female gametes, and produce estrogen, the female sex hormone. Estrogen causes female secondary sexual characteristics such as pubic hair, breast development, widening of the pelvis and deposition of body fat in hips and thighs. The ovaries are located in the abdomen.