

Module 5: Life Span Development
Topic 2 Content: Prenatal Development

Introduction

Prenatal Development



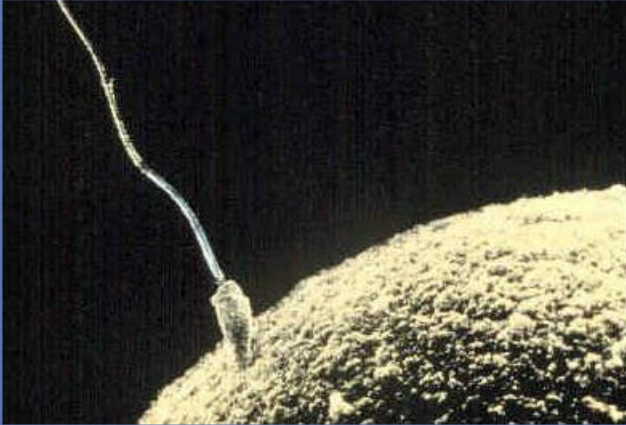
Click in order of the different stages of prenatal development to view details about the beginning of life. Click the *NEXT* button to begin.

Click on each of the different stages of prenatal development to learn more about the beginning of life. Click the NEXT button to begin.

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Fertilization

Step One: Fertilization



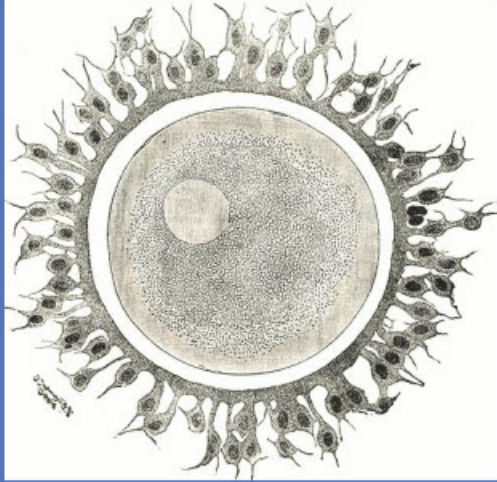
The first stage in prenatal development involves the sperm fertilizing the egg. The newly fertilized egg is called a **zygote**.

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Zygote

Step Two: Zygote



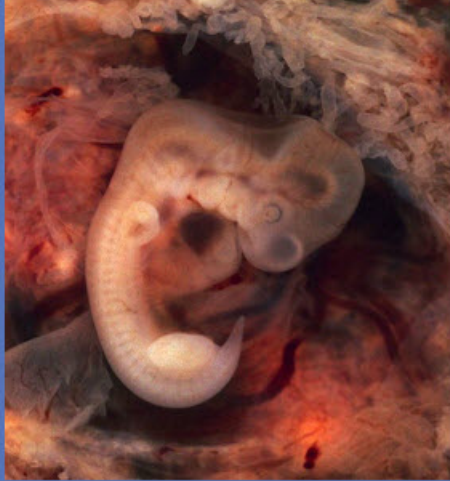
In the next stage, the cells of the zygote begin rapid divisions. These cells also gain specialized functions. The zygote attaches itself to the uterine wall, and after fourteen days it develops into an **embryo**.

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Embryo

Step Three: Embryo



In the third stage, the embryo has a noticeable heartbeat. Major organs also begin to develop. Cells grow in this stage for nine weeks before becoming a **fetus**.

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Fetus

Step Four: Fetus



During the fourth stage of prenatal development, the fetus begins to resemble a baby after about eight weeks. Once the sixteen week milestone is reached, the mother can feel the fetus moving. Brain cells start to migrate to their destination, where they will mature during the first and second trimesters of the pregnancy.

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Teratogens

Step Four: Fetus



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Newborn

Step Five: Newborn



The fetus usually becomes fully formed by eighteen weeks. The remaining weeks allow the baby to gain weight and further develop lungs for breathing outside of the womb.

When the baby is finally born, he or she will have grown from a microscopic clump of cells to a full-term baby, nearly twenty inches long and generally around seven pounds.

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