

*Human Reproduction and Childbirth* provides an overview of the male and female human reproductive systems, as well as fetal development. The video opens with a montage of human families and emphasizes the similarities between parents and children. The point is made that many traits are passed from generation to generation by the process of sexual reproduction.

Next, the video uses animation to explore the male reproductive system. Main structures are identified and the process of sperm formation is described. The function of the ducts and glands are also explained as the viewer follows the path of sperm through the system.

The next section provides a similar exploration of the female reproductive system. Each structure and its function are described. An egg is shown maturing in an ovary. Viewers follow its path through the female reproductive system. Menstruation is explained in this section as well.

Dramatic animation traces the path of egg and sperm in the female reproductive system and shows how a single sperm successfully enters the egg. The nuclear material of sperm and egg fuse together to form a fertilized egg. Viewers see the fertilized egg divide repeatedly as it continues its journey through the fallopian tube and down into the uterus where it implants. Formation of the embryo, placenta and amniotic membranes are shown through animation.

The second half of the video combines additional animation of fetal development together with candid interviews with a young couple expecting a baby. Viewers see animation of the events occurring internally interspersed with comments from the couple describing how her pregnancy has affected their daily lives. The mother-to-be describes how she feels during pregnancy. The father-to-be talks about trying to care for her and their future child. They discuss their expectations about parenthood.

In the next sequence, animation shows fetal development as it progresses, trimester by trimester. In the first trimester, viewers see the bulge that will become the head, the future heart pulse, and buds push out where limbs will develop. The second trimester shows refinement of external structures and describes the increasing development of organs and the nervous system. During the final trimester, viewers see the dramatic increase in size of the fetus and preparation for birth. In each stage, markers are used to indicate fetal size.

The final segment of the video is an animation of the birth process and pictures of the couple's newborn followed in the video. A quick overview provides a summary of the entire video.