

Conception





- About once each month, an <u>ovum-</u> a female cell or egg is released by one of a woman's ovaries.
- The egg then moves through the fallopian tube to the uterus- the organ in a woman's body in which a baby develops during pregnancy.
- This journey takes about 2 to 3 days.

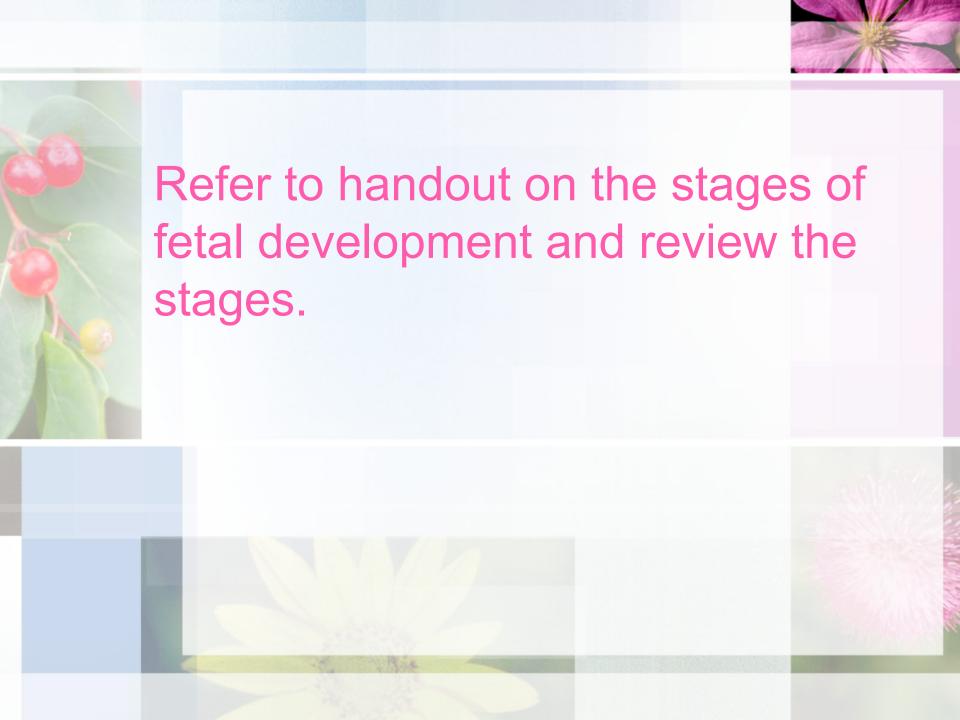
Period of Zygote This is the <u>first</u> stage of development. It lasts about 2 weeks Egg attaches to lining of uterus

Period of the Embryo





- This is the second stage of pregnancy.
- The <u>embryo</u> is the developing baby from about the <u>third</u> through the <u>eighth</u> weeks of pregnancy.
- During this time the embryo is growing rapidly and lots of changes are occurring.
- Brain and spinal cord development.



Period of the Fetus





- This is the <u>third</u> and <u>last</u> stage of pregnancy.
- This stage begins about the <u>eight</u> or <u>ninth</u> week and lasts until <u>birth</u>.
- It is during the 4th or 5th month that the mom will feel kicks and movement from the fetus.
- By the 7th month the fetus is capable of living outside the uterus.

Preparing For Birth





- Sometime during the usually the 9th month the mother will experience "lightening".
- Lightening is where the baby has dropped into the <u>birth canal</u> and the mother feels more comfortable in the upper abdomen.
- At this point the fetus is usually upside down with the head nestled in the mother's pelvis.

Preparing for Birth contd.





- The mother's abdominal skin is stretched to <u>maximum</u> capacity.
- The abdominal <u>muscles</u> are stretched too.
- ***The muscles and skin of the mother's abdomen can be stretched up to 60 times their original size.
- After 37 to 41 weeks the baby is ready to be born.



(Complete in complete sentences.)

- 1. What happens during the period of the zygote? How long does it last?
- 2. What changes might a pregnant woman feel in the period of the zygote and embryo?
- 3. What four changes take place in the period of the embryo?
- 4. What are the most important changes that take place in a fetus during the last two months of pregnancy?
- 5. How does a pregnant woman feel when "I ghtening" occurs? Why?