

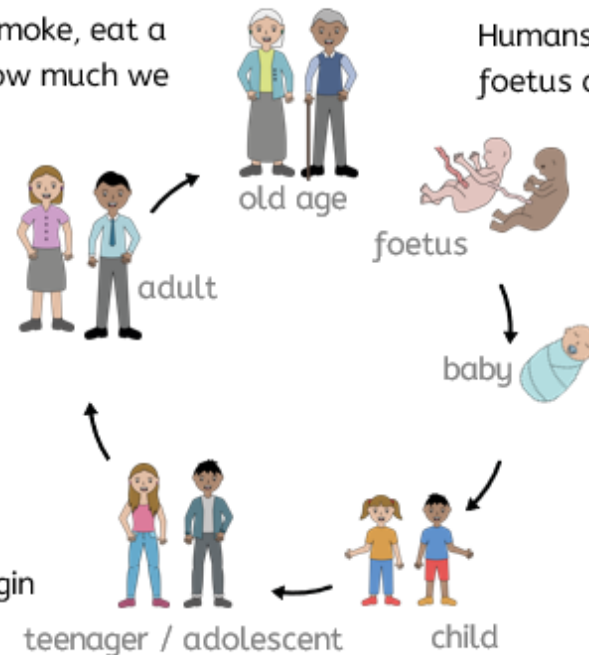
Human development

The human life cycle

During adulthood, we **age**. Primary aging is a natural process that happens as our bodies get older. Our reaction times slow and our hearing gets worse. If we smoke, eat a bad diet and don't exercise, this accelerates how much we age. This is called secondary aging.

Adults can reproduce, and their offspring continue the life cycle.

Puberty occurs during **adolescence** and is a period of time when the male and female body undergoes change, pubic hair grows, breast develop, males produce sperm and females begin to menstruate.



Gestation is the period from conception to birth. In humans, this is often 40 weeks. During this time, a ball of cells called an embryo develops into a **foetus**.

Humans are viviparous animals. This means the foetus develops inside the female.

At birth, a **baby** is born and will grow into a child. The child begins to develop and grow bigger. Children start to walk at about 1 year old and will begin to use words from about 18 months. Their speech becomes more advanced as they get older.

Key vocabulary

- **embryo** – (noun) an unborn baby that is under 8 weeks old.
- **foetus** – (noun) an unborn baby that is over 8 weeks old.
- **uterus** – (noun) the organ in which offspring are conceived and grow before they are born

