For many teens, sexual maturation comes with a lot of questions. These activities will help students understand the anatomy and function of the male reproductive system, while helping them separate fact from fiction.

**Related KidsHealth Links**

**Articles for Teens:**

- **Male Reproductive System**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/male-repro.html

- **Testicular Exams**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/testicles.html

- **How to Perform a Testicular Self-Examination**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/tse.html

- **Testicular Injuries**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/testicular-injuries.html

- **Testicular Torsion**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/torsion.html

- **What Are Wet Dreams?**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/expert-wet-dreams.html

- **Is It Normal to Get Erections?**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/normal-erections.html

- **Is My Penis Normal?**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/penis.html

**Discussion Questions**

*Note: The following questions are written in language appropriate for sharing with your students.*

1. What are the major male reproductive organs? What are their functions?
2. How is the pituitary gland involved in sexual maturation? What is the role of testosterone?
3. Although the timing of sexual development can vary widely among guys, it does follow a fairly predictable sequence. Describe the physical changes you can expect to see in a sexually maturing guy.
4. In what ways are the reproductive systems of men and women different? Similar? Complementary?
5. There’s no shortage of myths associated with sexual development and reproduction. Let’s name some. How do you think myths start? What’s the best way to clarify them?
6. Why is it important to know how to perform a testicular self-exam? What else can males do to keep their reproductive organs safe and healthy?
Activities for Students

Note: The following activities are written in language appropriate for sharing with your students.

Sperm Assembly Line

Objectives:
Students will:
• Learn the function of each part of the male reproductive system as it relates to sperm production

Materials:
• Computer with Internet access
• “Sperm Assembly Line” handout
• Pen or pencil

Class Time:
• 40 minutes

Activity:
Unlike females, who have all their eggs present at birth and only release them one by one during menstruation, a sexually mature guy makes millions of sperm a day. In fact, if sperm production were an assembly line, it just might be considered one of the most efficient of all time.

But where does a sperm cell start? How does it develop? Where does it go?

Create a chain diagram that shows the path of a sperm from creation to ejaculation. Be sure to include what the sperm looks like, how it moves, and what happens at each of the following body parts:
• testicles
• seminiferous tubules
• epididymis
• vas deferens
• seminal vesicles
• prostate gland
• urethra
• penis

Extension:
Continue the sperm’s journey as it moves on to ejaculation. During sex, millions of sperm are released via semen into the female’s vagina. Write two paragraphs describing what happens next - one describing what will happen if the sperm meets a mature egg cell there and one describing what will happen if it doesn’t.
Hey, Little Brother

Objectives:
Students will:
• Write a letter demonstrating their knowledge of puberty, sexual development, and reproduction

Materials:
• Computer with Internet access
• “Hey, Little Brother” handout
• Pen or pencil

Class Time:
• 45 minutes

Activity:
Your 12-year-old brother came to you and said that when he woke up, the bed was sticky and wet. He seemed embarrassed and confused. Fortunately, you’ve been there before and know exactly what’s going on. While he’s at basketball practice today, you decide to write him a note explaining what wet dreams are and why they are no big deal. While you’re at it, you also decide to include some of the other stuff you’re sure is going through his mind as he wonders what’s normal and what’s not about puberty and sexual development. Be factual, use correct terms, and do your best to reassure him that this is all perfectly normal.

Extension:
Work in groups or individually to turn what you wrote into a brochure to help spread the message to other kids as well.

Reproducible Materials

Handout: Sperm Assembly Line
TeensHealth.org/classroom/9to12/body/systems/male_reproductive_handout1.pdf

Handout: Hey, Little Brother
TeensHealth.org/classroom/9to12/body/systems/male_reproductive_handout2.pdf

Quiz: Male Reproductive System
TeensHealth.org/classroom/9to12/body/systems/male_reproductive_quiz.pdf

Answer Key: Male Reproductive System
TeensHealth.org/classroom/9to12/body/systems/male_reproductive_quiz_answers.pdf
Sperm Assembly Line

Instructions: Create a chain diagram that describes the journey of a sperm, from creation to ejaculation.
Hey, Little Brother

Instructions: Write a note to your younger brother letting him know what changes he can expect as he matures sexually.

Hey, Little Brother,

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
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Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question.

1. The fluid that carries and nourishes the sperm is called ____________________.

2. Humans pass characteristics of themselves to the next generation through their:
   a) sperm
   b) discharge
   c) gonads
   d) genes

3. True or false: Erections are always caused by sexual arousal.

4. The penis has two main parts: the ____________________ and the ____________________.

5. True or false: There are exercises guys can do to make their penises larger.

6. “Nocturnal emission” is the medical term for ____________________.

7. The male accessory glands include the ____________________ and the ____________________.

8. The duct system is made up of the ____________________ and the ____________________.

9. True or false: When semen comes out of the penis, it’s called ejaculation.

10. All boys are born with a ____________________, a fold of skin at the end of the penis that covers the glans.
Quiz Answer Key

1. The fluid that carries and nourishes the sperm is called _______ semen _______.

2. Humans pass characteristics of themselves to the next generation through their:
   a) sperm
   b) discharge
   c) gonads
   d) genes

3. True or false: Erections are always caused by sexual arousal.

4. The penis has two main parts: the _______ shaft _______ and the _______ glans _______.

5. True or false: There are exercises guys can do to make their penises larger.

6. “Nocturnal emission” is the medical term for _______ wet dream _______.

7. The male accessory glands include the _______ prostate gland _______ and the _______ seminal vesicle _______.

8. The duct system is made up of the _______ epididymis _______ and the _______ vas deferens _______.

9. True or false: When semen comes out of the penis, it’s called ejaculation.

10. All boys are born with a _______ foreskin _______, a fold of skin at the end of the penis that covers the glans.