
UNIT: Prenatal Development

LESSON: Stages of Prenatal Development

TIME: 1 day

COMPETENCIES:

1. Identify and describe the stages of prenatal development: zygote/ovum, embryo, and fetus. (Options 2 and 3)
 2. Discuss various types of development that occur during the three trimesters of pregnancy. (Options 4 and 5)
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OVERVIEW/SUMMARY: Prenatal development refers to the growth of the baby from the time of conception until birth. The growth that occurs during this time is more rapid and miraculous than the growth and changing that the individual will experience at any other time of life. The body will develop from one cell, smaller than the period on a page, to an infant weighing approximately 7 1/2 pounds and containing about 200 billion cells. All this occurs in a nine-month time period.

INTRODUCTION:

Have the students place the following periods of prenatal development in the correct order:

EMBRYONIC, FETAL, OVUM/ZYGOTE

(The correct order is Ovum/Zygote, Embryonic, Fetal.)

Explain that prenatal growth is amazingly rapid. If such a rate of growth continued after birth, a baby would weight 160 pounds on his/her first birthday!

LESSON OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:

OPTION 1

BOOK--What's Inside My Body?

OPTION 2--Competency 1

STAGES OF PRENATAL DEVELOPMENT: Present information concerning the three stages of prenatal development.

OPTION 3--Competency 1

MONTHLY DEVELOPMENT: Using a month-by-month fetal development handout (available by many companies), discuss the development of a fetus. NOTE TO TEACHER: Use the chalkboard or have the students draw the lengths of the developing fetus on a sheet of paper to help them visualize the growth that takes place.

OPTION 4--Competency 2

A MONTH AT A TIME: Divide the class into nine groups. Each group will research information on an assigned month of pregnancy. They will then present their information to the class. (Make sure the students report on the development of the baby, not the changes in the mother's body!)

OPTION 5--Competency 2

MONTHLY DEVELOPMENT: Have students complete the "A Month at a Time" worksheet.

RESOURCES:

August 1990, "Life Magazine"--pictures of zygote and ovum.

"Parents" magazine, 1981--good pictures.

Life Before Birth--Time Life Magazine

"As They Grow" magazine from Gerber
Bristol-Meyer Squibb Company
Att. Tammy Fisher (P-30)
2400 W. Lloyd Expressway
Evansville, Indiana 47721
PHONE: 812-429-8438

"Understanding Human Reproduction, Part II"
Sunburt Communications, #2098-SH, \$145.00
Part 1, 19 minutes
Part 2, 20 minutes
39 Washington
P.O. Box 40
Pleasantville, NY 10570-0071

Graphics from Child Birth Forum
P.O. 43257
Cincinnati, Ohio 45243
1-800-289-2794

March of Dimes