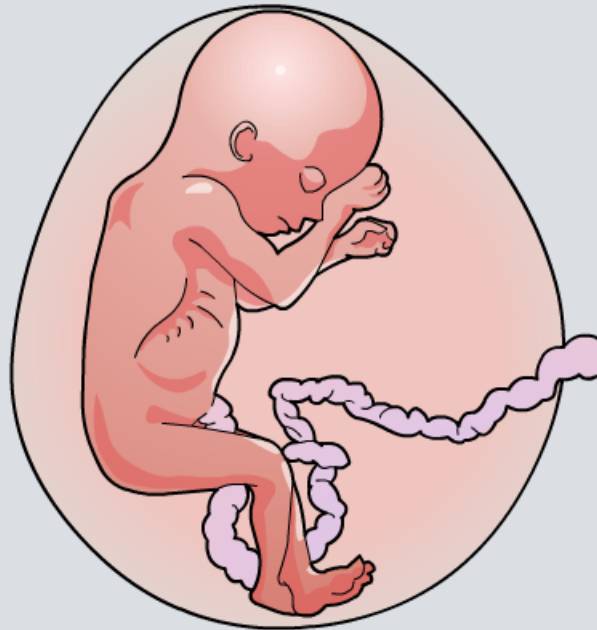


Development

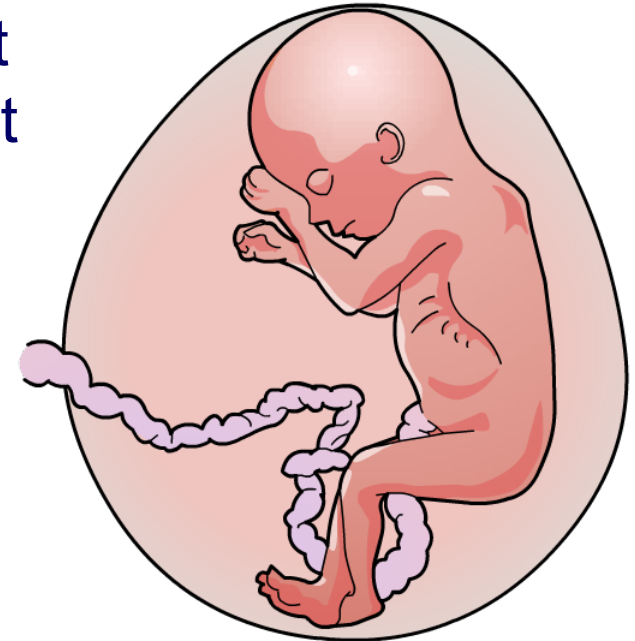


What is growth?

Growth is an irreversible increase in the size or mass of an organism as it develops.

Different organisms grow at different rates, and these growth rates vary at different stages of development.

Mammalian development begins in the womb. This is called the **gestation period** and is different for each species.



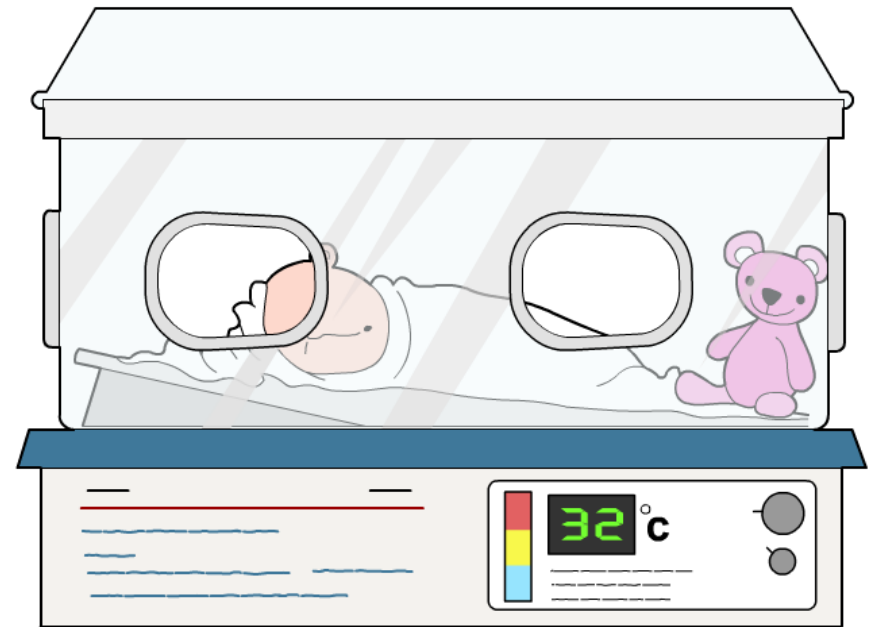
The rate of growth in the womb is fixed, but changes during development.



Average-sized babies – around 7.5lbs (3.3kg) – have the best chance of surviving birth and developing into healthy adults.

Babies that are small for their age are much more likely to die just before, during or just after birth.

Those that survive are more likely to have health and developmental problems later in life.



What could stop a baby growing properly?

What affects the size of babies?

What factors affect the size of babies?

- **genetics** – many genes have an affect on body size, such as the gene for growth hormone
- **diet of the mother** – this affects the type and amount of nutrients available for growth
- **size of the mother** – this affects the size of the uterus and therefore the space in which the fetus can develop
- **disease** – infections and abnormalities can reduce growth
- **drug-taking by the mother** (e.g. nicotine, alcohol) – smoking is associated with a smaller birth size



What are the missing words about development?

1. Growth is increase in the size or mass of an organism as it develops.
2. The time when mammals develop in the womb is called the period.
3. The average weight of a newborn baby is .
4. The of a mother can affect the size of a baby developing in her womb because this



solve

