A Life Unfolds

Trace how the body changes from before birth through adulthood.

HAP.8.6 "Describe the changes that occur during embryonic/fetal development, birth, and the growth and development from infancy, childhood, and adolescence to adulthood."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each life stage, underline one change at each stage, and number the underlined changes from earliest to latest.

From First Cell to Finish Line

1. Imagine following the same person from a single cell to a runner crossing a finish line. After fertilization, the cell divides repeatedly, and the developing organism implants in the uterus. During the embryonic period, major organs begin forming, including the heart and brain; tiny limb buds also appear. From about the ninth week after fertilization, it is called a fetus. Its organs continue to grow and mature, and its skeleton becomes more developed. Through the placenta, oxygen and nutrients pass from the pregnant person's blood to the fetus, while wastes pass in the other direction. The fetus does not breathe air.

2. Near the end of pregnancy, labor begins as contractions of the uterus help open the cervix. During a vaginal birth, the baby moves through the birth canal; afterward, the placenta is delivered. At birth, the baby's lungs expand with the first breaths, and circulation changes as more blood begins flowing to the lungs for oxygen. An infant still depends on adults for food and protection. During infancy, stronger muscles and developing nerve connections support skills such as sitting, reaching, and later taking steps. These skills develop at different times for different infants.

3. In childhood, steady growth in bones and muscles allows greater strength and coordination, while the brain supports more complex language, planning, and learning. A child who once struggled to balance can practice riding a bicycle or catching a ball. In adolescence, puberty brings a growth spurt and reproductive maturity. Hormones help drive changes such as body hair growth and changes in body shape; the brain continues to develop, especially in systems involved in planning and self-control. In adulthood, physical growth has usually ended, but people can keep building skills and adapting to new demands throughout life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does development change from the embryonic period to the fetal period? Describe what happens to organs in each period.

2. How does the way a baby gets oxygen change at birth?

3. Compare one change during infancy with one change during childhood that supports movement.

4. How do development in adolescence and development in adulthood differ? Include one change from each stage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence audio guide that follows one imagined person from before birth to adulthood. Include a change before birth, at birth, during infancy or childhood, during adolescence, and in adulthood; explain how at least one change supports an ability.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each life stage, underline one change at each stage, and number the underlined changes from earliest to latest. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does development change from the embryonic period to the fetal period? Describe what happens to organs in each period.	**Major organs begin forming during the embryonic period. During the fetal period, those organs continue to grow and mature.**
2	How does the way a baby gets oxygen change at birth?	**Before birth, oxygen passes to the fetus through the placenta. At birth, the baby's lungs expand, and more blood flows to them as the baby begins breathing air.**
3	Compare one change during infancy with one change during childhood that supports movement.	**During infancy, stronger muscles and developing nerve connections support skills such as sitting and reaching. During childhood, growing bones and muscles allow greater strength and coordination.**
4	How do development in adolescence and development in adulthood differ? Include one change from each stage.	**Adolescence brings changes such as a growth spurt and reproductive maturity. In adulthood, physical growth has usually ended, but people can continue building skills.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before Mira is born, her organs grow and mature as a fetus. At birth, her lungs expand, and she begins getting oxygen by breathing air. In infancy, stronger muscles and developing nerve connections help her reach for a toy. During adolescence, puberty brings a growth spurt as she trains to run. As an adult, Mira has finished growing taller, but she keeps improving her running skills with practice.

Accept accurate examples from the passage that distinguish the stages and describe how development changes over time. For the audio guide, check for five sentences, all five requested points in time, and a clear link between one change and an ability.