

Chapter 16 Lesson 3: The Female Reproductive System

Introduction:

Infertility is generally defined as the inability to have a baby after a year of trying. Though becoming a parent is probably years away for you, what you do now can affect your family in the future. This Web site will give you some insights into the relationship between a woman's age and infertility, as well as things you can do now to protect your fertility.

Links to Explore:

Infertility

<http://www.womenshealth.gov/faq/infertility.htm>

Directions:

- Click on the link and read the fact sheet on infertility.
 - Answer the following questions:
1. How common is infertility?
 2. How often is infertility caused by male reproductive problems?
 3. List three factors that can increase a woman's risk of infertility.
 4. At what point does a woman's ability to become pregnant dramatically drop?
 5. How often can infertility be successfully treated?

Answers:

1. About 12 percent of women aged 15 to 44 are affected.
2. About one-third of all cases are due to male factors, while another one-third are due to a mixture of male and female factors or to unknown factors.
3. Any three of the following:
 - Age
 - Stress
 - Poor diet
 - Athletic training
 - Being overweight or underweight
 - Tobacco smoking
 - Alcohol use
 - Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
 - Health problems that cause hormonal changes
4. After age 30
5. About two-thirds of couples who are treated for infertility are able to have a baby.

Additional Links to Explore:

Use the links below to gather additional information on the activity topic. When appropriate, have students extend their research to include important concepts contained in these Web sites.

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

<http://www.asrm.org/>

Resolve: The National Infertility Association

<http://www.resolve.org/site/PageServer>