The Male Reproductive System – How Does It Work?

On your diagram of the male anatomy, label and colour the internal and external organs according to the instructions below. Vocabulary words that need to be written on the diagram have been *italicized*.

Start at the lower right hand side of your diagram. This special sac that houses the two *testicles,* is called the *scrotum*. **Colour** the scrotum in blue pencil crayon. The *scrotum* is a sac of loose skin divided into two parts. Each part contains a *testicle, epididymis* (the small kidney shaped gland at the top of the scrotum), and the end of the *vas deferens.* Label the three words *epididymis, testicle, and scrotum* at the lower right hand side of your diagram. Colour the *epididymis* purple. Each testicle contains tiny tubes that are continuously creating sperm throughout a man's life. When puberty occurs, sperm move to the *epididymis* to mature.

The *vas deferens* allows the sperm to move up to the *seminal vesicle*. Follow the *vas deferens* tube up to the top of the diagram. Colour the entire *vas deferens* dark green, but be sure to **stop** coloring as the *vas deferens* tube enters the penis.

The large egg-shaped organ in the center of your diagram is the *bladder*. This organ stores urine until it can be expelled from the body. It is not considered part of the reproductive system. Label the *bladder*, but leave it uncoloured.

As the *vas deferens* curves around the top of the bladder and back down again, it passes the *seminal vesicle*. This gland is oblong-shaped, and is located behind the bladder on your diagram. The *seminal vesicle* produces fluids that activate sperm. Colour it light blue.

The *prostate gland* is located just below the bladder. It supplies most of the liquid that combines with the sperm prior to ejaculation. When a man is sexually aroused to the point of orgasm, the fluid from the *prostate gland* combines with the sperm to make semen. Strong muscle contractions in and around the *prostate gland* contract rapidly to force the semen out of the *urethra*. Colour the *prostate gland* orange.

Just under the prostate gland rests a very small round gland called the *Cowper's gland*. This gland secretes a fluid that removes any acidity from the urethra just before ejaculation. This ensures that the sperm have the best chance of living! Colour the *Cowper's gland* pink.

The tube leading from the various glands down the length of the *penis* is called the *urethra.* The *urethra* is the special passageway that allows urine to be voided from the bladder, and allows semen to travel out of the body during sexual intercourse. Both urine and semen cannot be in the urethra at the same time.

During an erection, a small valve at the entrance from the bladder seals it off. Colour the *urethra* light green.

The organ in which the *urethra* is housed is called the *penis*. The *penis* has spongy tissues containing small blood vessels and nerves. During sexual arousal, the spongy tissue fills with blood, and the penis hardens. This is called an erection. An erection is a necessary part of human reproduction. It allows the man to insert his penis into the woman's vagina, which enables semen to reach the egg inside the woman's reproductive system.

At the very tip of the penis is the *glans*, which is the head of the penis. This part of the male reproductive system may or may not be covered by *foreskin*. If the male is circumcised, the foreskin will not cover the *glans.* Some parents may choose not to circumcise their son, while other parents do. Colour the area of the *glans* yellow.