## Big Female Reproductive System Foldable – Answer Key

What you expect your students to produce will depend on their grade level and their academic level. The detailed information provided in the answer key is to give you a more thorough understanding about this topic. You most likely do not require your students to know all the details, so for your ease of use, highlight which details you would like students to know and use these to guide your lessons.

	Structure	Function
1.	uterus	The embryo implants into the lining of the uterus and begins to develop. The uterus helps to support the development and maturation of the embryo and fetus by providing physical support and protection as well as nutrients through the production of a placenta.
2.	fallopian tube	These tubes are lined with sweeping cilia and empty out into the uterus. The fallopian tubes are the bridge between the ovaries and the uterus allowing eggs, fertilized eggs, and embryos to reach the uterine lining/endometrium.
3.	infundibulum	The ending funnel-like part of the fallopian tube (closest to the ovary) that is fringed with fimbriae.
4.	fimbriae	During ovulation the fimbriae swell (due to an engorgement of blood caused by a hormonal trigger) and gently hit the ovary in a sweeping motion. The cilia covering the fimbriae sway to draw the ovum into the fallopian tube.
5.	ovary	It produces, stores, matures and releases follicles containing female gametes (ova). It also has an endocrine function, producing estrogen, progesterone as well as testosterone to.
6.	myometrium	The middle muscular layer of the uterus. Made up of smooth muscle cells and a blood supply. It functions to produce uterine contractions during labor.
7.	endometrium	This is the innermost mucosal membrane layer that lines uterus. It is responsive to hormonal stimulation and thickens with a blood supply to prepare itself for embryo implantation during each ovulatory cycle. If this does not occur, it sloughs off during menstruation.
8.	cervix	This is the beginning 2-3 cm tube that is the lowermost part of the uterus. It produces cervical mucus that changes throughout a woman's ovulatory cycle to either block or enhance sperm transport. During labor, it cushions and supports the head of the infant.
9.	vagina	This is the first part of the female genital tract and it is a muscular and tubular organ. It facilitates sexual intercourse, provides a channel for childbirth as well as provides a pathway for menstrual blood and tissue to be removed.
10.	primordial follicle	All oocytes are formed in the fetal ovary (none are formed after birth) and are surrounded with a single layer of thin and flat follicular epithelial cells. An oocyte with its surrounding follicular cells is called a primordial follicle. These follicles form the majority of all the follicles in the ovaries.
11.	primary follicle	These form when the flat follicular epithelial cells of the follicle become larger and cuboidal in structure.

	A is a primordial follicle and B is a primary follicle.
12. secondary follicle	These form when the oocyte is surrounded by a layer called the zona pellucida and the follicular cells have differentiated into several layers of cells that serve different functions. Theca cells begin to develop around the follicle which produce hormones to aid reproduction.
13. Graafian follicle	A fully mature follicle containing a large fluid filled cavity housing a mature oocyte (egg) at full size. The theca cell layer has thickened. It is ready for ovulation (release of the egg from the ovary). This type of follicle is also known as a tertiary follicle.
14. ovum	This is the female gamete (sex cell). It is a haploid cell (contains only one set of chromosomes – from the female) and is much larger than the other somatic cells of the body. Its large cytoplasm developed to prepare it for the multiple cell divisions that will occur after fertilization. The cytoplasm will be divided up amongst many cells during the initial stage of blastocyst formation. Once fertilized by a sperm, the fertilized egg is called a zygote.
15. corpus luteum	This structure is what is left of the Graafian follicle once the ovum has been released during ovulation. It produces progesterone which helps to thicken and maintain the uterine lining/endometrium. If the ovum is fertilized, it continues to produce progesterone to maintain the lining until the placenta develops enough to take over progesterone production. If the ovum is not fertilized, then it stops producing progesterone and degenerates into a corpus albicans and the uterine lining is sloughed during menstruation.
16. corpus albicans	This is the corpus luteum that has begun to degenerate due to the digestive effects of macrophages and fibroblasts. The remains of the corpus albicans can be left as a scar on the surface of the ovary.



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