

UPGRADE to the Growing Bundle

CLICK HERE



Save 75%!

- ✓ **Covers ALL Science Topics**
- ✓ **Daily Work or as a Sub Plan**

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Reading Mega Bundle

Reading Comprehension Passage & Questions

- ✓ Over 115 Readings! Covers all Science Topics
- ✓ No Prep, Ready-to-Use Resource in Google and Office Format
- ✓ Includes Comprehension and Extension Questions



Twins



Twins are two siblings born at the same time to the same parents.

What are twins?

Twins¹ are two siblings that are born at the same time to the same parents. These twins can be **identical**², meaning

they have the same **genes**³ and look almost exactly the

same, or **fraternal**⁴, meaning they don't have the same genes and don't look any more alike than any other sets of siblings. Identical twins are both girls or both boys, and fraternal twins can be a boy and a girl. More than two babies can occur, but 90% of multiple births are twins. How does this happen? First, it's necessary to understand how babies are formed.

Did You Know?

About 2/3 of twins are fraternal, while only 1/3 are identical.

Human reproduction

Ecobottle Sample

TWIF

This section has been removed

To reproduce, a sperm cell from the male joins with an egg cell from the female to form a **zygote**⁵. This joining is called **fertilization**⁶. During fertilization, one sperm cell fuses with one egg cell.

¹ **Twins**: two siblings that are born at the same time to the same parents.

² **Identical**: having the same genes and looking almost exactly the same.

³ **Genes**: pieces of DNA (instructions for making a life form) that determine how we look.

⁴ **Fraternal**: having different genes and looking just as similar as any siblings.

⁵ **Zygote**: fertilized egg.

⁶ **Fertilization**: the process of sperm and egg joining in sexual reproduction.

The zygote (fertilized egg) grows into an **embryo**⁷ (developing offspring). This embryo divides into many cells, which become the different parts of a body, developing into a **fetus**⁸ (an unborn offspring). After some time to develop (usually about 40 weeks in humans), this fetus is born as a baby.

How are twins formed?

Ecobottle Sample

TWF

This section has been removed



Identical twins are formed from one egg cell and one sperm cell.

The second way is that one egg is fertilized by one sperm cell, forming one zygote. This zygote splits in half, becoming two embryos. These two embryos have the same set of genes. This is how identical twins are formed. In some cases, the fertilized egg cell does not fully separate, resulting in **conjoined twins**⁹.

If conjoined twins survive, doctors may be able to surgically separate them, but this is difficult and dangerous. Some conjoined twins have lived full lives still attached to each other.

Are identical twins exactly identical?

Identical twins are not perfectly identical. They will be either all boys or all girls and will have the same blood type. Most people won't be able to tell them apart. However, there are some differences. For example, they



Identical twins share the same genes.

⁷ **Embryo**: a developing offspring.

⁸ **Fetus**: unborn offspring.

⁹ **Conjoined twins**: identical twins that did not fully separate before developing.

don't have the same fingerprints. For about a quarter of identical twins, looking at each other is like looking in a mirror. The left side of one twin matches the right side of the other.

What makes having twins more likely?

Ecobottle Sample

TWF



This section has been removed

If anyone on a woman's mother's side of the family has had fraternal twins, she is more likely to have fraternal twins as well.



The chance of having twins increases with increasing number of past pregnancies.

Women 35 or older, women of African descent, women who have given birth to fraternal twins before, and women who have recently stopped taking birth control pills all have a higher chance of twins. In addition, the chance of having twins goes up the more times a woman has been pregnant.

Reading Comprehension Questions

- 1) What
- 2) What are the two types of twins?
- 3) What
- 4) Define
- 5) How do fraternal twins happen?
- 6) How
- 7) List three things that increase the chances of having fraternal twins.

Extension Question

- 8) Research the risks associated with carrying more than one fetus. List three.
- 9) Create
- 10) Are there any twins in your family? If so, on which side of the family? Are they fraternal or identical?

Ecobottle Sample



This section has been removed

TWFSAM

References

- Bonner, J.T. (2000 Sept 8). "Reproduction." *Science*. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/science/reproduction-biology>.
- "Cesarean section or C-section." (n.d.) *Glossary*. Retrieved from <https://www.womenshealth.gov/glossary/#cesarean>.
- "Embryo." (n.d.) *Merriam-Webster*. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/embryo>.
- "Facts About the Twins." (2017). *Conjoined Twins*. Retrieved from <http://www.umm.edu/programs/conjoined-twins/facts-about-the-twins>.
- "Genetics Overview." (2017). *Genographic Project*. Retrieved from <https://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/genetics-overview/>.
- "Multiple Pregnancy: Twins or More." (n.d.) *WebMD*. Retrieved from <http://www.webmd.com/baby/tc/multiple-pregnancy-twins-or-more-topic-overview#1>.
- O'Neil, D. (2014). "Cell Reproduction and Conception." *Biological Basis of Heredity*. Retrieved from http://anthro.palomar.edu/biobasis/bio_2.htm.
- "Sexual vs. Asexual Reproduction." (n.d.) *Learn Genetics*. Retrieved from <http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/basics/reproduction/>.
- The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. (2009 Jul 13). "Zygote." *Science*. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/science/zygote>.
- "Twins – identical and fraternal." (2017). *Reproductive system – female*. Retrieved from <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/twins-identical-and-fraternal>.
- "Twins, triples, and other multiples." (2010). *Office on Women's Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*. Retrieved from <https://www.womenshealth.gov/pregnancy/youre-pregnant-now-what/twins-triplets-and-other-multiples>.