

GRADE 3

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FAMILY LIFE

FAMILIES

Families play an important role in society by providing a loving, caring environment for their members.

In native societies, family ties are still very strong. Many people within a community are related to each other. Through the family, the traditions, values and language of the culture are transmitted from one generation to the next.

Because the family is such an important part of native life, it is extremely important for teachers to ensure the cultural relevance of these lessons for the children in their class. Each lesson should be adapted or altered as necessary to fit the local situation. In schools with native students, it is strongly recommended that native teachers, a classroom assistant, a parent or elders either teach the lessons or discuss with the students the concepts related to families in that context.

A nuclear family can be considered "a committed group of people that lives together in a home and provides love, care, nurture and support for its members." This definition will not fit the concept of a family for some groups, where the extended family is the common family unit. Teachers should select with local elders a suitable definition of a family in their local situation.

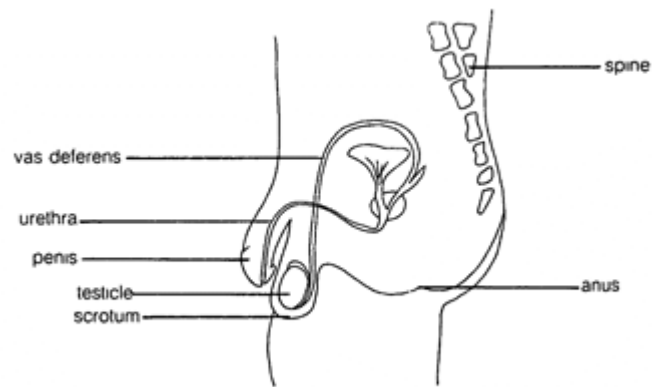
In present day society, family structures vary greatly in size and composition:

- i) the nuclear family usually consists of mother, father and children
- ii) the one parent family results from separation, divorce, death or choice
- iii) the extended family includes most relatives, but particularly grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins
- iv) the adopted family accepts a person from another family into their family
- v) the foster family looks after a child, on a temporary basis
- vi) the blended family occurs when members of different families come together, e.g., through remarriage

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND REPRODUCTION

Students at this grade level learn very elementary aspects of this topic, such as the names of body parts, where they are located and that babies develop from an egg which has been joined with a sperm.

Male Reproductive System



Female Reproductive System

