



Have you ever wondered where you came from?

I don't mean the street you live on or the state you live in or the country you call home. But where did you and all the billions of people on this planet come from? Who would know the answer to this question? You might think of a grown-up like a parent, a teacher, a policeman, or the president. These people are smart, no doubt! And when they give you an answer, your next question might be, how do you know?

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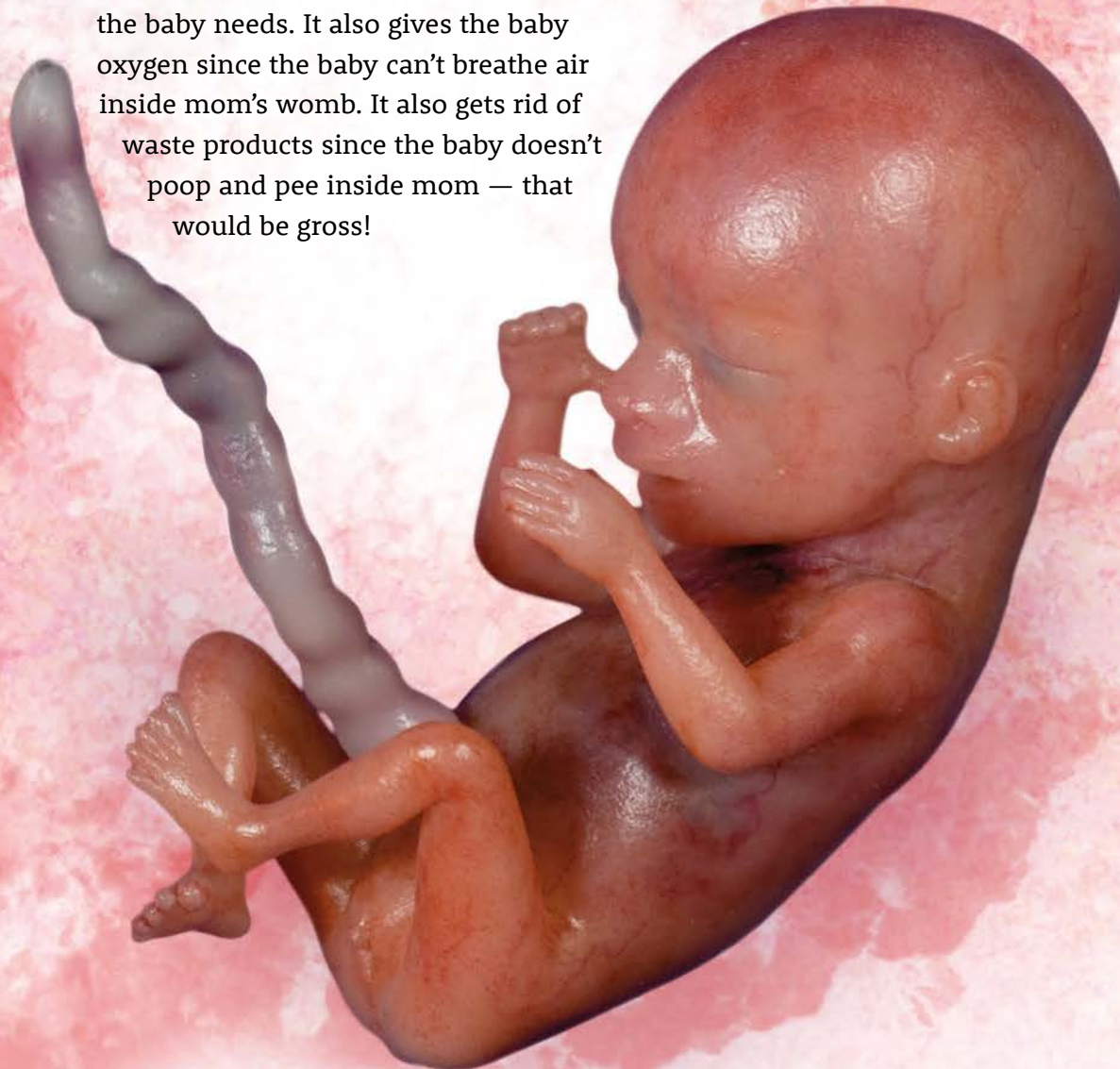
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Week 11 All of the baby's organs have developed and will continue to grow. If mom gets an ultrasound (a special device that lets people see the baby growing in mom's uterus), she may be able to find out from the doctor if the baby is a boy or a girl! The baby is now called a fetus and is the size of a golf ball.

Week 12 The baby can wiggle her fingers. Fingernails and fingerprints start to form. Take a look at your thumb. Do you see the patterns and shapes? Every person on the planet has unique fingerprints — no two are alike! The baby is the size of a chicken tender.

Week 14 The placenta that began to grow on day 6 is now fully formed. The placenta provides all the food the baby needs. It also gives the baby oxygen since the baby can't breathe air inside mom's womb. It also gets rid of waste products since the baby doesn't poop and pee inside mom — that would be gross!

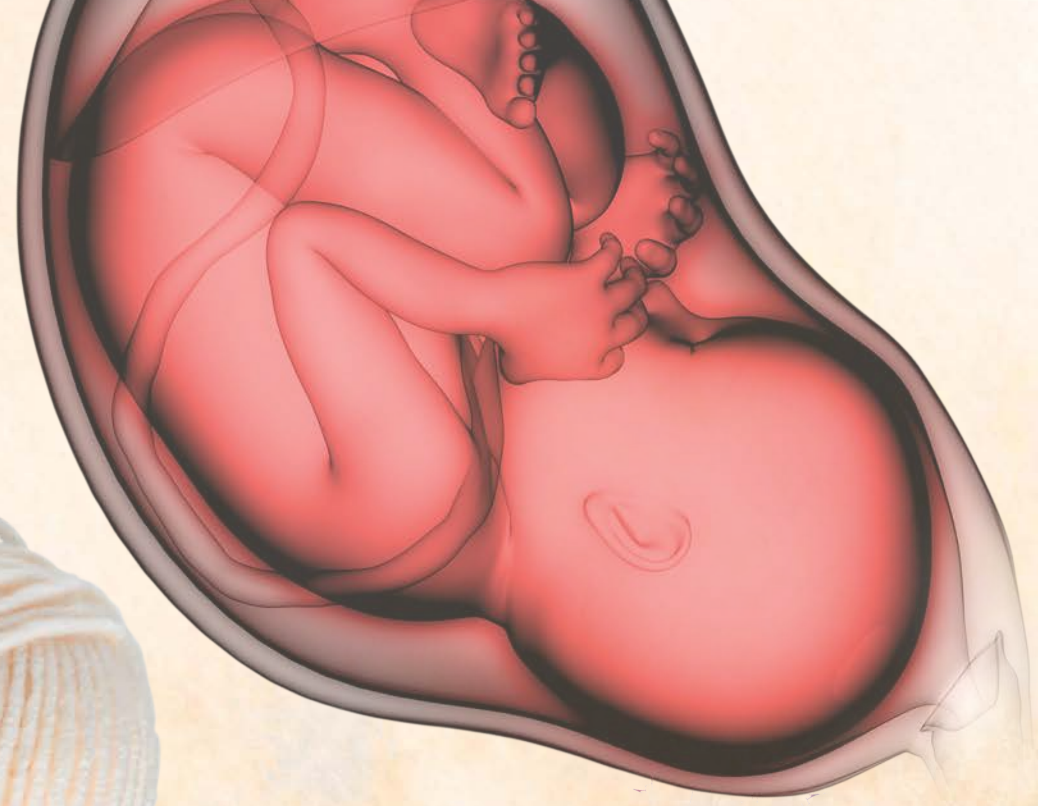
Week 20 Even though the baby's eyes have not opened yet, the baby can sense light. The baby can even hear sounds like voices and music outside of mom's womb! The baby's hair is growing, and she can now taste and swallow. The baby is the size of a banana.





Week 23 The baby begins to kick and stretch, and mom can feel the baby move. The baby is “working out” and her muscles are growing stronger! The baby is the size of a grapefruit.



Week 27 Colored hair can now be seen growing on the baby’s head. The baby “breathes” the fluid that surrounds her. She is practicing for her first breath outside mom’s womb! The baby has developed a sleep schedule but many times the baby is awake and moving when mom is trying to sleep! The baby is the size of a head of cauliflower.



Birth When the baby is ready to be born, mom has muscle contractions in her uterus which help push the baby out and through the birth canal. Now the baby continues life outside the mom's womb.

Did you know you are older than you think? Your **birthday** is the day you were born or when your life outside mom's womb started. But your life actually started earlier when dad's DNA combined with mom's DNA in your mom's womb (usually about 9 months). So, if someone asks you your age you can say, "I'm 8 years (or whatever your age) and 9 months old!" (But you probably won't be able to use this to get your driver's license before you're 16!)

What's the white substance covering the baby? This is called the vernix. It is an oily substance that covers the baby in the womb where it protects her skin and acts as a moisturizer.





People are people...

...no matter how old or young they are. Whether a boy is **two days** old — just a cute little bundle of cells that God carefully knitted together — or 969 years old, like Methuselah (Genesis 5:27), he is always a person!

...no matter how big or teeny-tiny they are. Your dad is **bigger** than you, isn't he? Does that mean he's more of a human than you are? Of course not! When you were just the size of a piece of glitter in your mom's womb, you were already a person!

...no matter where they live. Whether you live in an apartment in a crowded city or on a farm with lots of room or in a camper with your family who travels around a lot, you are a person! The tiny baby safe and warm in his mom's **womb** is just as much a human being as the little girl who is born and celebrates her birthday every year after that!

...no matter how much help they need. You may need to ask for help with a math problem or opening the lid on a jar that is stuck. Does needing help mean that you aren't as much a person as the people who help you? People are people no matter how much help we need or how much we depend on someone else to provide for our needs. The smallest baby in her mom's womb who needs her mom for everything is still a **precious** human being created in God's image.

...no matter what they look like. Have you looked at a picture of yourself when you were younger? Do you look the same now? Do you think you'll look the same when you are 83? As you grow, your body changes and looks different at different ages. You may not have looked like you do now when you were just one cell on that very first day of your life, but you were still a human being, made in **God's image!**