

Puberty, day 2

Grades 4-6, Lesson #10

Time Needed

40-50 minutes

Student Learning Objectives

To be able to ...

1. Distinguish puberty facts from myths.
2. Anticipate puberty with positive feelings, recognizing that the timing of change is individual.

Agenda

1. Review purpose of lesson.
2. Respond to "Anonymous Question Box" questions re: puberty.
3. Use *Puberty Worksheet #2* to reinforce facts and debunk fears/myths re: puberty.
4. Summarize by discussing peer pressure in the puberty years.

This lesson was most recently edited May 20, 2013.

Materials Needed

Student Materials: (for each student)

- *Puberty Worksheet #2*

Activity

1. Explain again the reasons you are doing these lessons on puberty.

- Sometimes people are afraid of things they don't understand.
- Sometimes people feel as if they are the **ONLY** one to ever experience certain changes; they may "dump on" themselves because they think they aren't normal.
- Those feelings are **UNNECESSARY**; people can look forward to puberty with excitement and pleasure, **IF** they know what to expect!

2. Respond to "Anonymous Question Box" questions re: puberty (see lesson 1 for setting up an anonymous question box or boxes).**3. Use *Puberty Worksheet #2* to reinforce facts and debunk fears/myths re: puberty.**

- a. Divide the class into 3 teams.
- b. Hand out *Puberty Worksheet #2* and give the teams 20 minutes to reach consensus (within each team) on each item. Encourage people to discuss the items they disagree on, to explain to one another why they believe as they do about an item.
- c. Have one spokesperson for each team write their team's responses on the blackboard and explain, one at a time, why they chose a particular answer. You can award 1 point for each correct answer and an extra ½ point to the team with the best explanation. The team with the most points "wins" although we would encourage you to award prizes, if you do that, to anyone who participated actively.

4. Summarize by discussing peer pressure in the puberty years.

Discuss how it felt to disagree with teammates, whether there was overt peer pressure to agree (for consensus) or whether each person was considerately listened to. Summarize the lesson by explaining that, at puberty, it is probably more difficult than at any age before or after to disagree with the crowd **BECAUSE** one is beginning to separate from one's family and to gradually identify more with friends. That is normal...and one has to find ways to trust one's own judgment **AT THE SAME TIME** as one enjoys one's friends.

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- ¹ Family Practice Notebook. (before May 10, 2008). *Female Tanner Stage*. Retrieved August 14, 2009 from <http://www.fpnotebook.com/Endo/Exam/FmlTnrStg.htm>
- ² Family Practice Notebook. (before May 10, 2008). *Male Tanner Stage*. Retrieved August 14, 2009 from <http://www.fpnotebook.com/Endo/Exam/MlTnrStg.htm>

Puberty Worksheet 2

NAME _____ DATE _____

DIRECTIONS: Write "T" for "true" next to each statement you believe is correct.
Write "F" for "false" next to the wrong statements.

- _____ 1. Girls may start puberty any time between the ages of 8 and 13.
- _____ 2. Usually, boys start puberty a little younger than girls.
- _____ 3. The pituitary gland, in the brain, tells the body when to begin puberty.
- _____ 4. Boys only get erections when they think about something sexual.
- _____ 5. A person's feelings may change from moment to moment, especially during puberty.
- _____ 6. If your parents started puberty early, you might too.
- _____ 7. You can tell whether a girl is menstruating by looking at her.
- _____ 8. Boys often have some breast growth during puberty.
- _____ 9 . It is common for boys to have nocturnal emissions at puberty, but it is also healthy not to.
- _____ 10. The main reason teenagers get acne is they eat the wrong foods.
- _____ 11. Girls should not use tampons until they are grown.
- _____ 12. The vagina is always wet, just like the mouth and eyes.
- _____ 13. There is something wrong with a boy if he ejaculates in his sleep.
- _____ 14. If a boy has not started puberty by age 13, he should see a doctor, because there might be something wrong with his endocrine system.
- _____ 15. It is OK for a girl to shower or play sports during her menstrual period.
- _____ 16. A boy should start wearing an athletic supporter ("jock strap") during puberty when he plays sports, to protect and support his genitals.
- _____ 17. A girl may start wearing a bra for support when her breasts start to develop, especially if she is uncomfortable being active and playing sports.
- _____ 18. It is necessary to wash more often once you begin puberty.

Puberty Worksheet 2 - Answer Key

NAME _____ DATE _____

DIRECTIONS: Write "T" for "true" next to each statement you believe is correct.
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- F 2. Usually, boys start puberty a little younger than girls.
- T 3. The pituitary gland, in the brain, tells the body when to begin puberty.
- F 4. Boys only get erections when they think about something sexual.
- T 5. A person's feelings may change from moment to moment, especially during puberty.
- T 6. If your parents started puberty early, you might too.
- F 7. You can tell whether a girl is menstruating by looking at her.
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