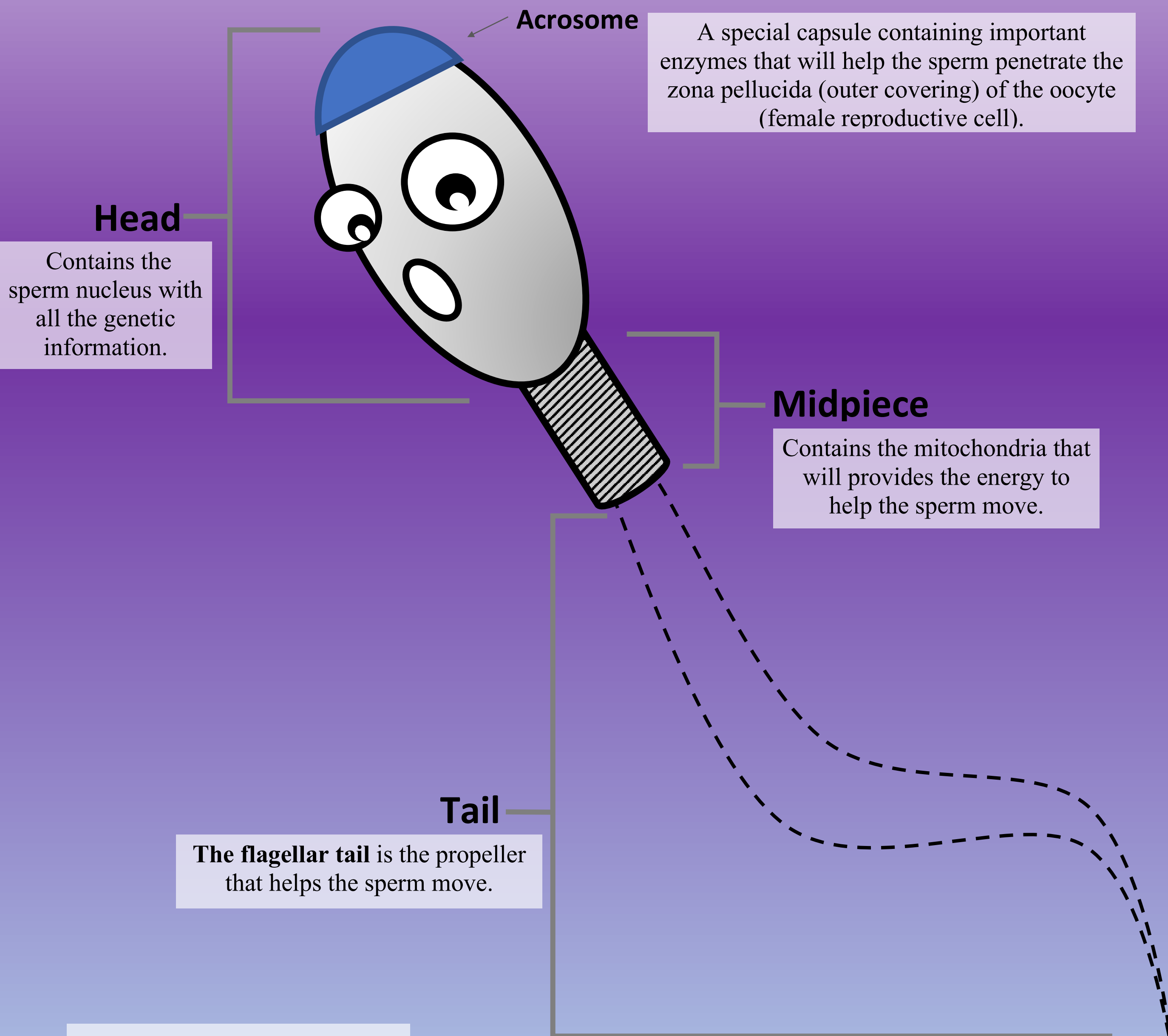


The Sperm

The sperm (spermatozoon) is the male reproductive cell that carries the paternal (father's) genetic information.



Let's Play!

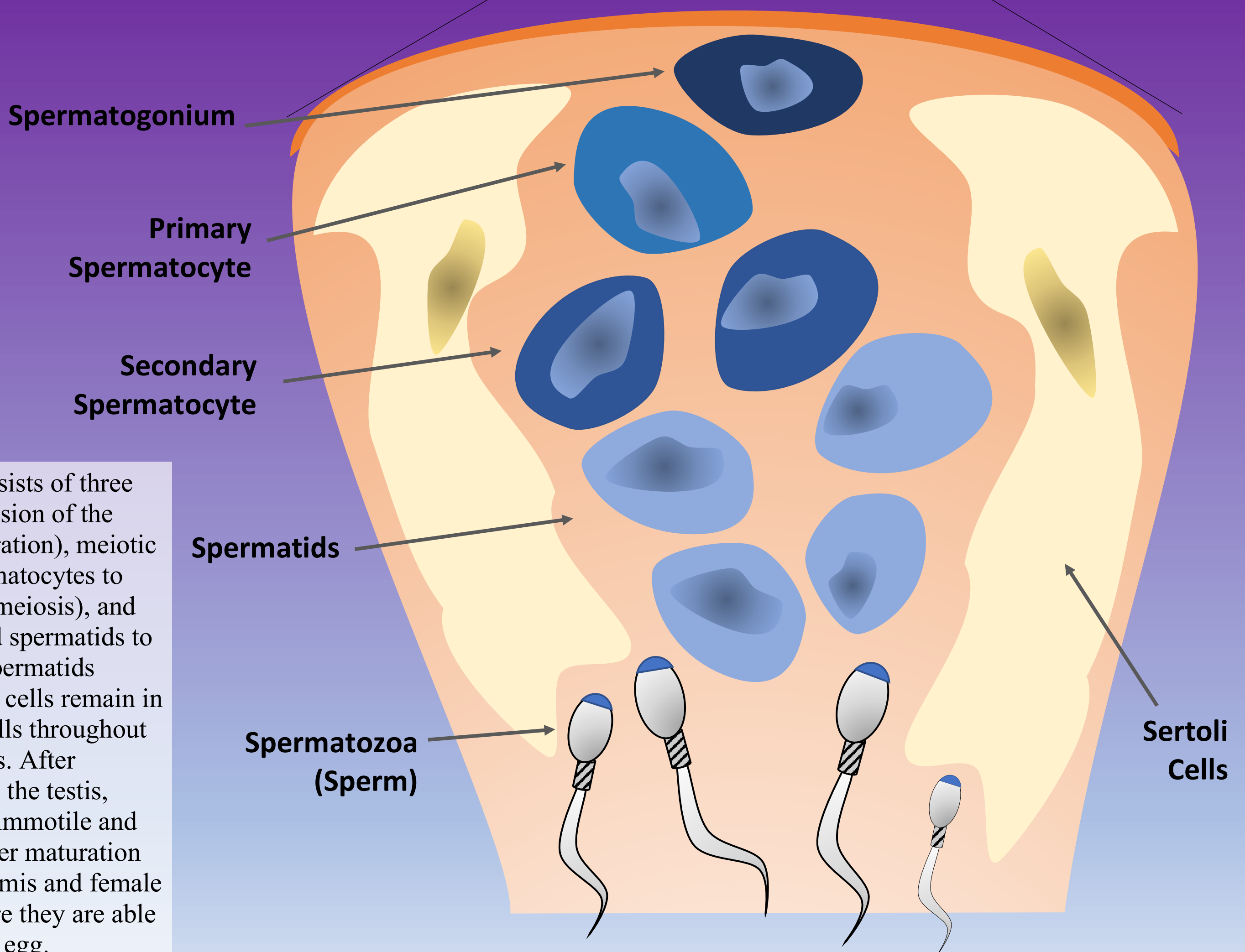
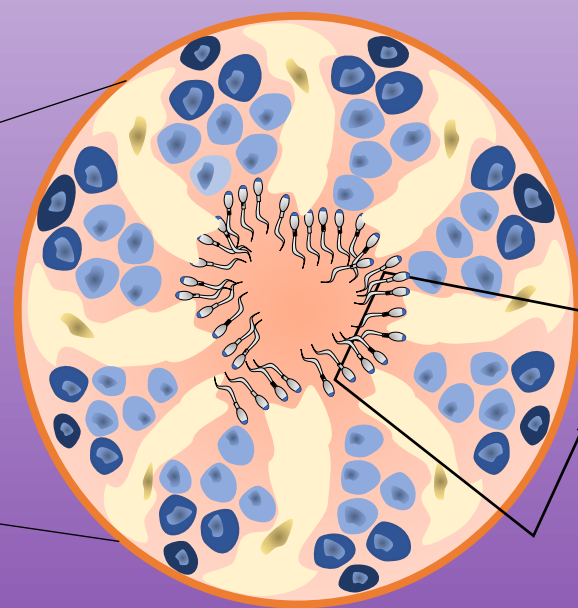
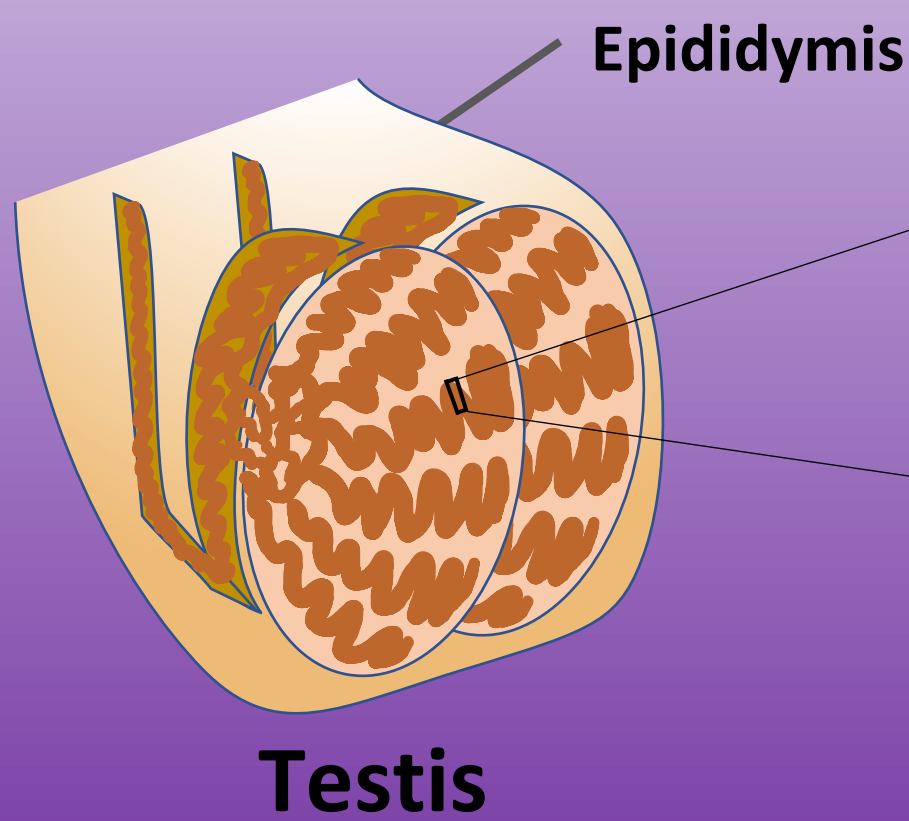
Pin the tail on the Sperm

While blind folded try to pin the tail on the sperm. As you might see there are different types of tails representing some tail defects that sperm might present.

Spermatozoa are fully formed when they leave the testis but must undergo additional maturation processes in the epididymis and female reproductive tract (capacitation) before they are capable of fertilizing an egg.

Spermatogenesis

Spermatogenesis is the process by which male gametes (spermatozoa) are formed in the seminiferous tubules of the testis.



Spermatogenesis consists of three phases: mitotic division of the spermatogonia (proliferation), meiotic division of the spermatocytes to produce spermatids (meiosis), and differentiation of round spermatids to form elongated spermatids (spermiogenesis). Germ cells remain in contact with Sertoli cells throughout spermatogenesis. After spermatogenesis in the testis, spermatozoa are still immotile and must go through further maturation processes in the epididymis and female reproductive tract before they are able to fertilize an egg.



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