

Write one important fact from each paragraph in this space.

Science Shorts -7

Look Alikes

Do you know any twins? Some twins look so much alike that it is hard to tell them apart. These are identical twins. Other twins aren't alike at all. They just look like members of the same family. They may even be brother and sister. Such a pair is fraternal twins.

Identical twins come from the same fertilized egg. One sperm and one egg join in the Fallopian tube. During their early development the embryo splits into two. Each half-embryo then develops into a complete person. In this development the twin embryos share the same placenta (the place where the umbilical cord is attached to the mother). Identical twins must be of the same sex – two boys or two girls.

Sometimes the embryo splits rather late in development. The 2 half-embryos develop face to face. In such a case the left side of one twin may resemble the other twin's right side more than it does its own right side. Such twins are mirror images of each other.

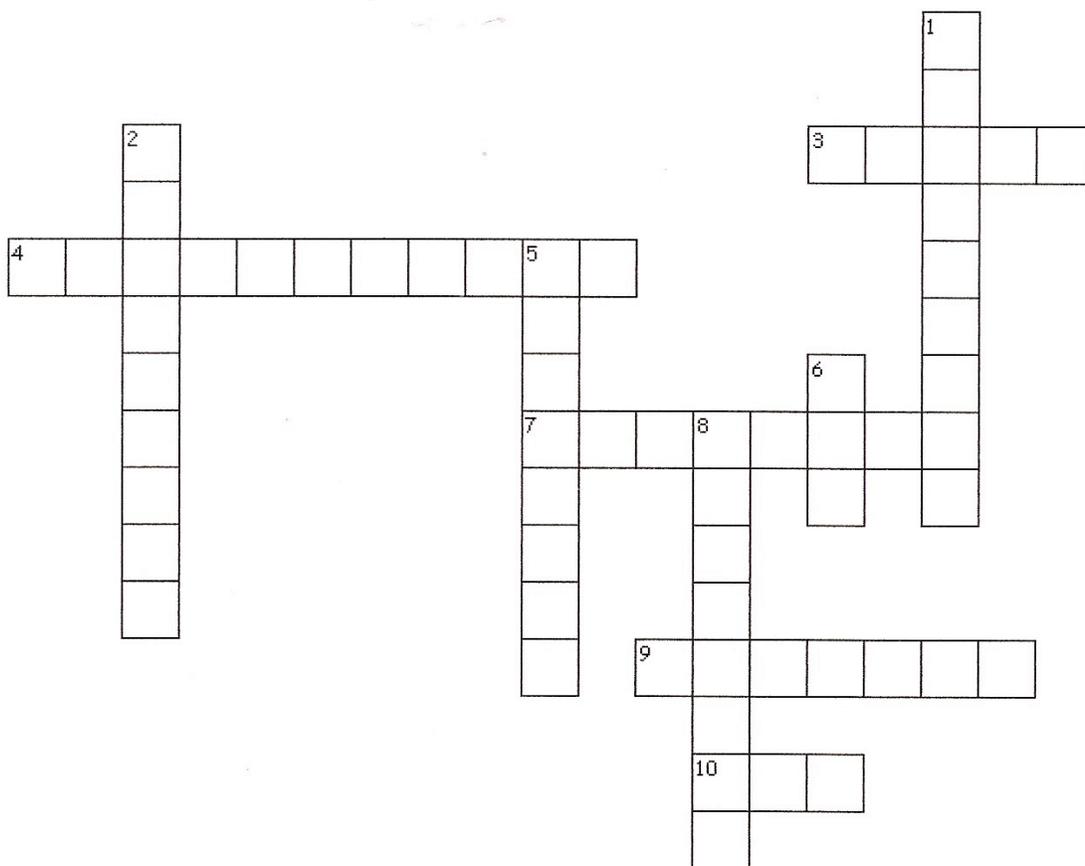
Have you ever seen Siamese twins? Siamese twins are identical twins that are attached to each other. Sometimes they can be cut apart. However, if their blood vessels and nervous systems are closely connected, or they share a vital organ, they cannot be separated. They must stay together for life.

Siamese twins don't necessarily come from Siam. They got that name because a famous pair was from Siam. Their names were Chang and Eng. These Siamese twins traveled with the circus for many years. They married two different women and fathered over 20 children. Today Siamese twins are called conjoined twins.

Fraternal twins result with the mother ovulates 2 eggs at the same time. A different sperm fertilizes each egg. The embryos develop at the same time but separately. Each has its own placenta. Fraternal twins may be the same sex or of different sexes. Biologically they are no more alike than any 2 children of the same parents. Of course, because they are of the same age and grow up together, they many have similar interests and habits.

About one out of 85 births is a multiple birth. Twins are the most common kind of multiple births. Twinning is inherited and runs in families. Very rarely, a multiple birth produces triplets (3), quadruplets (4) or quintuplets (5). The sets may be identical or fraternal, in any combination.

Look Alikes



Across

3. Father's sex cell
4. Multiple birth of four babies
7. The place where the umbilical cord is attached to the mother
9. Identical twins that are attached to each other
10. Mother's sex cell

Down

1. Twins that must be of the same sex
2. Twins that come from two different eggs
5. Multiple birth of three babies
6. The number of sperm that can fertilize an egg
8. New name for Siamese twins