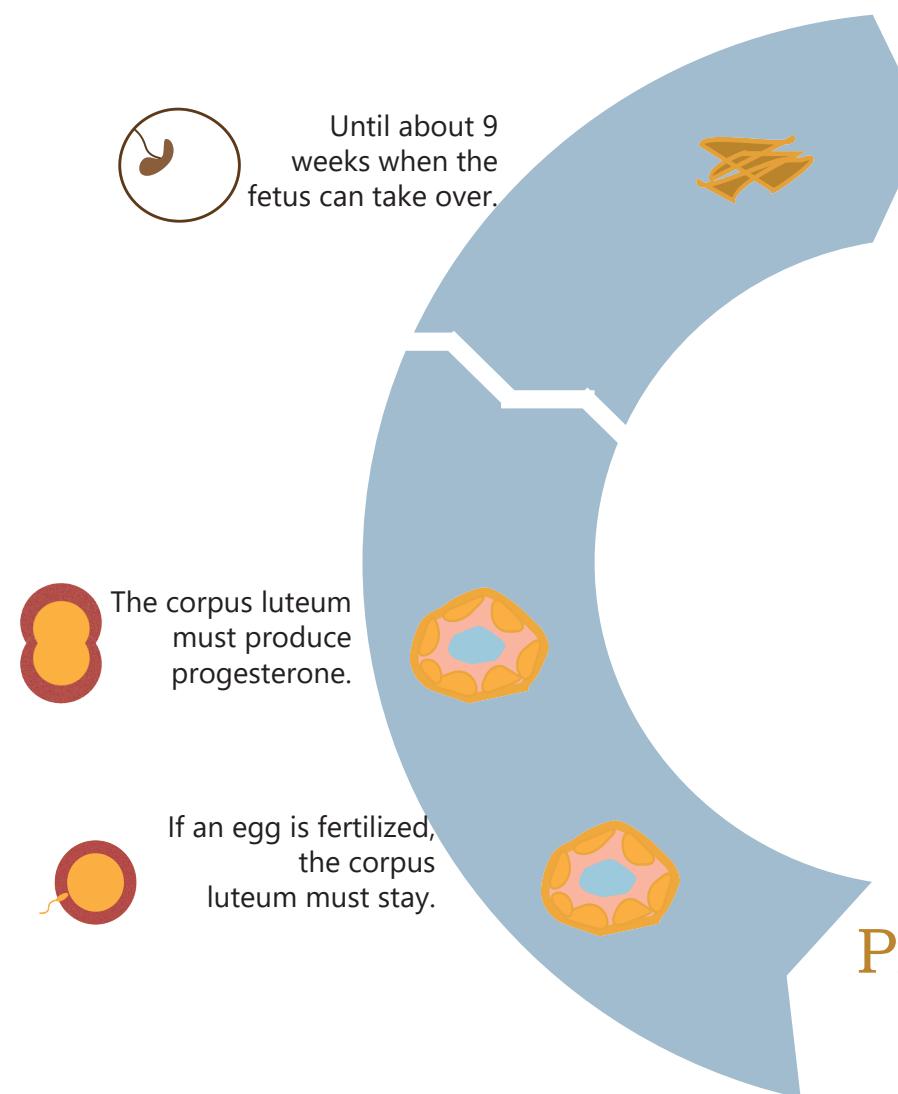


The Circle of Life:

Menstruation & Pregnancy, with Special Focus on the Follicle/Corpus Luteum



The Corpus Luteum's Importance

Many women have miscarried while not even knowing they were pregnant.
Everything rests on the corpus luteum.

LUTEAL PHASE

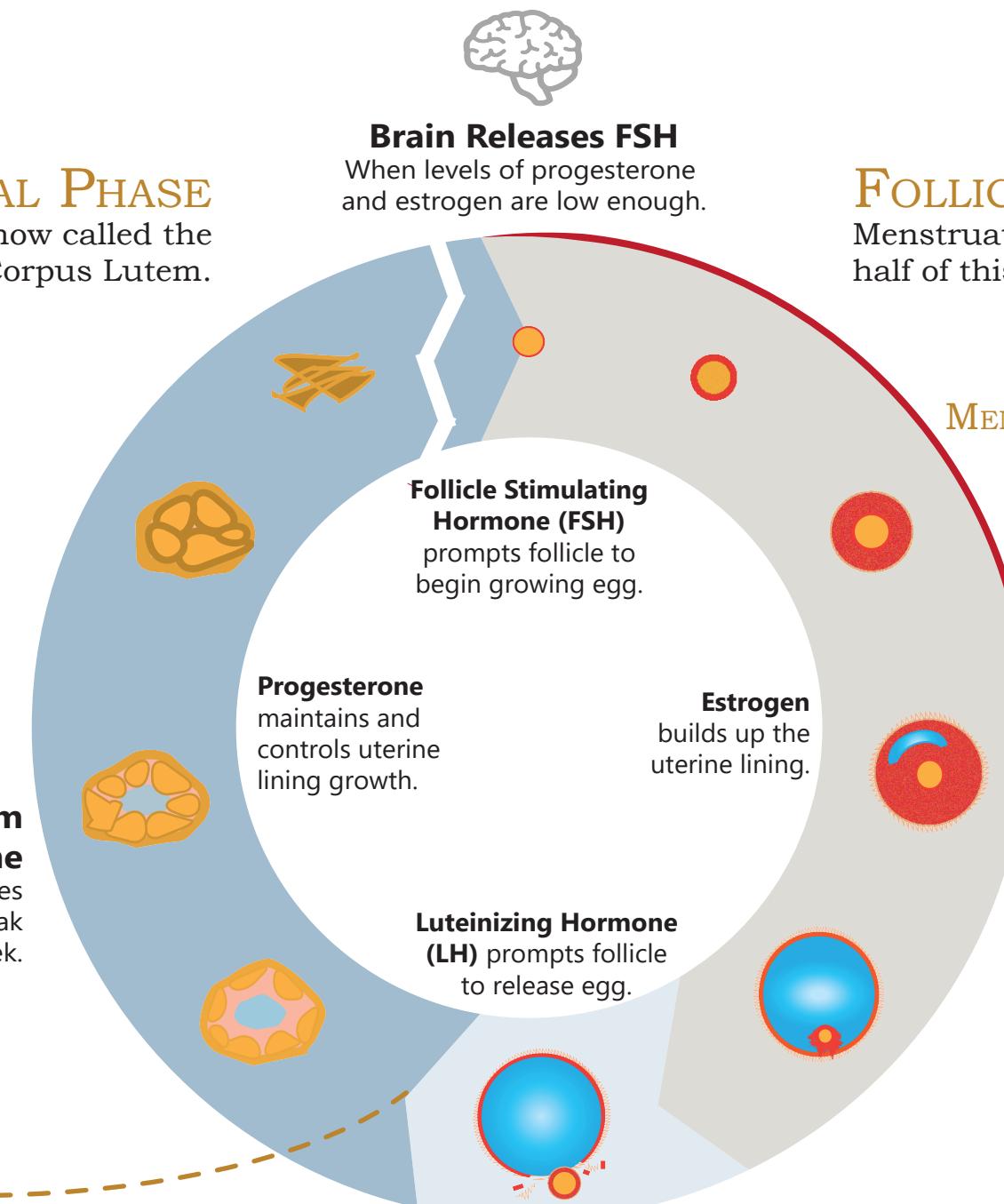
The follicle is now called the Corpus Luteum.



Corpus Luteum Releases Progesterone

As it breaks down, which takes about 2 weeks. Levels peak around 1 week.

PREGNANCY



Brain Releases FSH

When levels of progesterone and estrogen are low enough.



Brain Releases LH

When levels of estrogen get high enough, LH is released.

OVULATION



The Follicle Releases Estrogen

While growing the egg; levels peak when follicle is ready to release egg.