SIXTH GRADE
LESSON IX
BIRTH PROCESS

Objectives
• Describe fetal development
• Discuss the birth process

Concepts
1. During sexual intercourse, when a sperm unites with the ovum, fertilization takes place and an embryo begins to develop.
2. The nucleus of the sperm and the nucleus of the egg each have half of the heredity material which determines the characteristics of the new human being.
3. The embryo attaches to the lining of the uterus. The embryo is as small as a dot and will live and grow for nine months inside the mother. This is called the gestation period.
4. Most babies are born through the vagina-birth canal. Some deliveries require a cesarean operation to insure the health and safety of mother and child. Define cesarean delivery using the teacher glossary definition.

Materials
• Handout—“A New Life Begins, Fertilization to Birth”
• Handout—“Stages of Labor”
• Question Box

Activities
1. Read and discuss the handout “New Life Begins”
2. Read and discuss the handout “Stages of Labor”
   Stages of Labor
   A. The first stage is called labor. The uterus contracts and pushes the baby against the cervix that causes the cervix to stretch. This stage lasts about 6-12 hours.
   B. The second stage is the delivery of the baby. The baby passes through the birth canal into the hands of the doctor, midwife, father or other person who may be helping the mother. The baby is quickly examined and as soon as it breathes regularly, the umbilical cord is clamped and cut. This is not painful for the baby.
   C. The third stage is the expulsion of the placenta that provided nourishment for the baby while inside the mother.
3. Discuss questions students might have about the birthing process such as
   A. pain
   B. prenatal care
   C. multiple births
   D. effects of drugs taken by the mother on the baby (alcohol, tobacco, etc.)
4. Exceptional Education Inclusion Activities
A. Cut out the pictures of the fetus and have the students paste them in order of development onto another piece of paper
B. Invite a friend who is pregnant in to visit the class and talk about the changes the baby is going through
STAGES OF LABOR

First stage
First stage
Second stage
Second stage
Third stage