

## Face development in the womb



Face development in the womb posted by Creation - BBC one

Expert: Michael Mosley, BBC One, Inside the Human Body

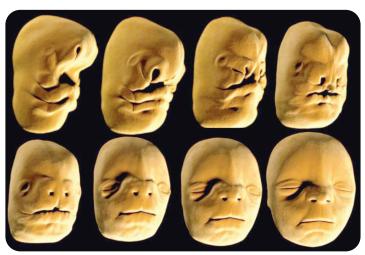
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1 Before watching the video discuss the following statement.

All newborn babies look the same. It is very difficult to recognise one from another.

- 2 Watch the video and find the answer to Activity 1.
- 3 Watch the video again and choose the best option for each question.
  - **a.** Everything takes place in the groove ... our nose
    - 1. underneath
    - 2. between
    - 3. beneath
  - **b.** The groove is called ...
    - 1. filter.
    - 2. philtrum.
    - **3.** filtrum.
  - c. Data comes from ... of developing embryos.
    - 1. photos
    - 2. scans
    - 3. parts

- **d.** The features of our face ...
  - 1. grow independently.
  - 2. are predetermined before birth.
  - 3. fit together like in a puzzle.
- **e.** The ... main sections meet in the groove.
  - 1. four
  - **2.** two
  - 3. three
- **f.** The process takes place ...
  - 1. after 3 or 4 weeks.
  - 2. between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> month.
  - 3. after the 3<sup>rd</sup> month.



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## 4 Discuss in pairs.

- a. Do you look like your father or your mother?
- b. What features do you have in common?





## **FACIAL EXPRESSIONS DEVELOP IN THE WOMB**

Before he or she is born, a foetus begins to move his or her face, e.g. parting lips, wrinkling a nose or lowering a brow. These movements, when combined, will one day assemble expressions we all recognize in one another. A new study has shown that, as the foetus develops, these facial motions become increasingly complex. They used 4-D ultrasound images, which resemble video, to track the facial motions of two female foetuses.

At 24 weeks, foetuses were more likely to make a single movement, like a widening of the lips for example, all by itself. Then, as the weeks passed, they began combining the movements, putting, say, a lip widening movement with a nose wrinkle. By about 35 weeks, combinations of three and four movements associated with the two

expressions had surpassed single or double movements. These motions are likely a form of practice, as the foetuses prepare to enter the social world, where they must form bonds with others. Foetuses also suck their thumbs in the womb and make breathing motions, both precursors for important activities once they are born.

(Adapted from Wynne Parry. Live Science, http://www.livescience.com/15939-fetus-facial-expressions.html)

bond: legame brow: sopracciglio to part: separare to suck: succhiare thumb: pollice

to wrinkle: (qui) arricciare