12.5: Vertebrate Reproduction

Does the embryo develop in the mother or in an egg?

Is the egg within the mother or not? Vertebrate reproduction occurs by one of three methods. These bird eggs demonstrate one of three types of vertebrate reproduction.

Vertebrate Reproduction

Vertebrates reproduce sexually, and almost all of them have separate male and female sexes. Recall that sexual reproduction is the joining of gametes during fertilization, producing genetically variable offspring. Generally, aquatic species have external fertilization, whereas terrestrial species have internal fertilization. Can you think of a reason why...
Vertebrates reproduce sexually, and almost all have separate male and female sexes.

Aquatic species generally have external fertilization, whereas terrestrial species usually have internal fertilization.

Vertebrates have one of three reproductive strategies, known as ovipary, ovovivipary, or vivipary.

**Summary**

1. Define ovipary, ovovivipary, and vivipary.
2. Which vertebrates use each type of reproductive strategy?