The sperm (spermatozoon) is the male reproductive cell that carries the paternal (father’s) genetic information.

**Head**
- Contains the sperm nucleus with all the genetic information.

**Midpiece**
- Contains the mitochondria that will provide the energy to help the sperm move.

**Tail**
- The flagellar tail is the propeller that helps the sperm move.

**Acrosome**
- A special capsule containing important enzymes that will help the sperm penetrate the zona pellucida (outer covering) of the oocyte (female reproductive cell).

**Let’s Play!**
**Pin the tail on the Sperm**
- While blindfolded try to pin the tail on the sperm. As you might see there are different types of tails representing some tail defects that sperm might present.

**Spermatozoa** are fully formed when they leave the testis but must undergo additional maturation processes in the epididymis and female reproductive tract (capacitation) before they are capable of fertilizing an egg.
Spermatogenesis is the process by which male gametes (spermatozoa) are formed in the seminiferous tubules of the testis.

Spermatogenesis consists of three phases: mitotic division of the spermatogonia (proliferation), meiotic division of the spermatocytes to produce spermatids (meiosis), and differentiation of round spermatids to form elongated spermatids (spermiogenesis). Germ cells remain in contact with Sertoli cells throughout spermatogenesis. After spermatogenesis in the testis, spermatozoa are still immotile and must go through further maturation processes in the epididymis and female reproductive tract before they are able to fertilize an egg.