

## REPRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN ANIMALS

### Reproductive Organs and the Process of Producing Gametes

All sexually reproducing organisms have the reproductive system. The system is made up of organs that are responsible for the production of gametes, male and female. Most organisms have the male and female reproductive organs in separate individuals of the same species called **dioecious**. Other organisms have both parts in the same individual referred to as **monoecious**.

**Hermaphrodites**, on the other hand, contain both sets of reproductive organs but each set will not function at the same time. Examples of dioecious, monoecious and hermaphrodites are humans, earthworm and snails, respectively.

### Reproductive Organs in Animals

Sexually reproducing animals may be classified according to the presence and activity of the reproductive organs. Some invertebrates are monoecious and hermaphroditic while most vertebrates are dioecious. Vertebrates, exemplified by humans, being **dioecious** have two separate reproductive organs, male and female, which is often found in a male and female individual of similar species, respectively.