



## Belly Button - Why do you have a Belly Button?

### Fact

- You have a belly button because when you were inside your mum's uterus your umbilical cord was connected from your tummy to your mum's placenta.
- The placenta absorbs food and oxygen from your mother and feeds it to you through your umbilical cord.
- When you were born you didn't need to be connected to your mum like that for food and oxygen any more so the umbilical cord was cut and clamped off.
- When the cut umbilical cord healed you got your belly button.

### Do you know

- Everyone has a belly button.
- Some vegetables, like peas, have a belly button too. They get nutrients from the pea pod through their stubby little nobbin, which works like an umbilical cord.
- Some people have belly buttons that go in and some have belly buttons that stick out – it depends how your umbilical cord healed after it was cut.

### Experiments you can do

Look inside a fresh pea pod and see if you can find the little "nobbin" that attached the pea to it's mother. Or have a look at some fresh peas. Can you find the little belly button where the "nobbin" was attached?

### Other Investigations

Have a look at your own belly button in the mirror. Maybe you can even look at other peoples too. But make sure you ask first!

### Jokes

Why did the person not sew the button back on their coat? They thought they'd use their belly button