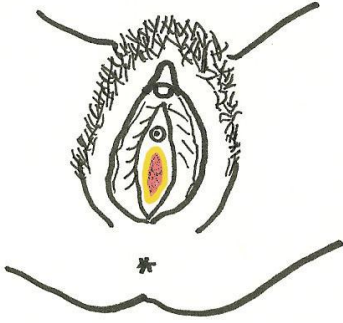
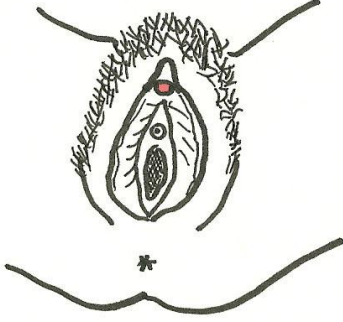
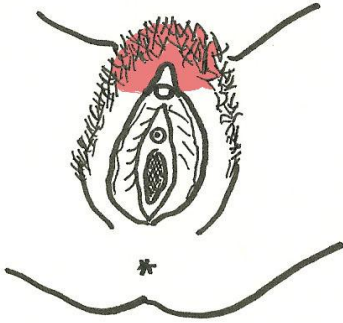
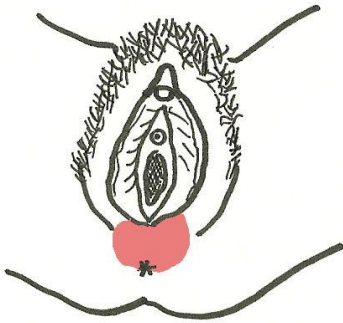
 <p>A diagram showing a frontal view of the female genital area. The entire region, including the labia majora, labia minora, clitoris, and vaginal opening, is highlighted in red. A small asterisk is located below the diagram.</p>	<p><b>THE VULVA</b>  This entire region is called the vulva.  Do NOT call this entire region the vagina.  The vagina only refers to the sleeve-like tunnel that starts from the outside of the body and goes in towards the uterus.  The vulva includes structures that are visible on the outside of the genital area such as the mons veneris, labia majora, labia minora, vestibule, clitoris, prepuce, vaginal opening, and urethral opening.</p>
 <p>A diagram showing a frontal view of the female genital area. The vaginal opening is highlighted in yellow. A small asterisk is located below the diagram.</p>	<p><b>THE VAGINAL OPENING</b> also known as <b>THE INTROITUS</b>  This is the beginning of the tunnel towards the uterus.  It is through this opening that the penis must penetrate for intercourse. It is through this opening that menstrual blood leaves the body. It is through this opening that a baby leaves the body of its mother.  Around the edges of the introitus is the membrane called the <b>HYMEN</b>. The hymen does not cover the vaginal opening completely. The hymen has a big hole in its center allowing access to and from the vagina.</p>
 <p>A diagram showing a frontal view of the female genital area. The clitoris is highlighted in red. A small asterisk is located below the diagram.</p>	<p><b>THE CLITORIS</b> (only the <b>HEAD</b> also known as the <b>GLANS</b> is sometimes visible protruding from underneath the prepuce)  The head of the clitoris is similar to the head of the penis in structure and in sensitivity to stimulation. Both the head of the penis and that of the clitoris are derived from a structure in the embryo called the genital tubercle. Both contain tissue with spaces that fill with blood during sexual arousal. Both become enlarged and firmer during sexual arousal.</p>
 <p>A diagram showing a frontal view of the female genital area. The mons veneris is highlighted in red. A small asterisk is located below the diagram.</p>	<p><b>THE MONS VENERIS (MONS)</b>  The mons (hill) veneris (after Venus – the goddess of love) is a mound of tissue over the pubic bone. The area of skin that covers the pubic bone has extra fat underneath. The mons provides a pad of protection to minimize discomfort as pubic areas rub together during intercourse. The area has significant amounts of hair (after puberty) and sensory nerve endings.</p>
 <p>A diagram showing a frontal view of the female genital area. The perineum is highlighted in red. A small asterisk is located below the diagram.</p>	<p><b>THE PERINEUM</b>  The perineum is an area of skin located between the vaginal opening and the rectal opening. This area has lots of nerve endings. This is the location within the vulva where the person delivering a baby (such as the OB doctor) may sometimes choose to make a cut called an episiotomy.</p>