

Name _____

The Master Gland: Exploring the Pituitary Gland

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The pituitary gland regulates growth and development by producing growth hormone (GH), which stimulates the growth of bones, muscles, and other tissues.
2. Prolactin stimulates milk production in breastfeeding women by promoting the development of mammary glands and initiating milk secretion after childbirth.
3. Antidiuretic hormone (ADH) regulates water balance in the body by controlling the amount of water reabsorbed by the kidneys, thereby helping to maintain blood pressure and prevent dehydration.
4. It's important for the pituitary gland to communicate with the hypothalamus because the hypothalamus produces releasing hormones that stimulate or inhibit the release of hormones from the pituitary gland, ensuring proper regulation of bodily functions.

