

Key Vocabulary

skeleton	The supporting structure for the body which is made up of bones, joints and cartilage.
spine	A series of small, stacked bones that run down some animals' backs. It is sometimes called the 'backbone'.
skull	A group of bones that helps form the head and provides protection for the brain.
ribcage	A group of curved bones that helps form the chest and provides protection for the heart and lungs.
pelvis	A group of 'bowl-like' bones that the spine and legs are attached to.

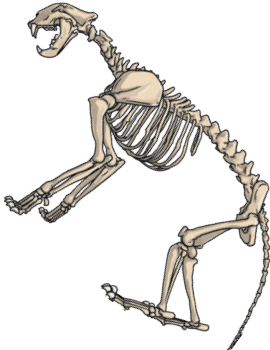
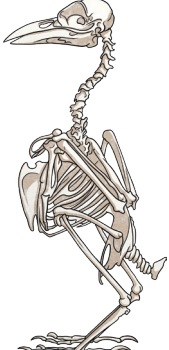
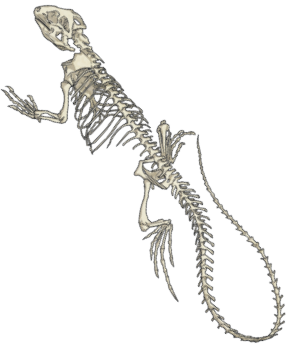
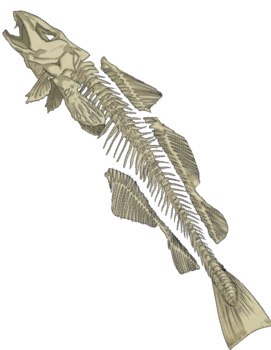
The Human Skeleton

Our skeletons are made up of many different bones. Each bone in our body has a specific name.

The **skeleton** in an adult human is generally made up of 206 bones.

Newborn babies have around 300 bones. As we grow, some of our bones fuse together, which is why an adult's skeleton has fewer bones than a baby's.

Comparing Skeletons of Animals

mammals	birds	reptiles and amphibians	fish
			

Mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish and birds all have skeletons. They are made up of lots of different bones.

There are similarities and differences between the skeletons. Many of these animals commonly have a **spine** and a **skull**. They often have a **ribcage**.

Key Vocabulary	
femur	A bone in the upper leg often called the 'thigh bone'. It is the longest and strongest bone in the human skeleton.
movement	Skeletons, working with other parts inside our bodies such as muscles, allow us to move.
protection	Some bones provide protection for internal organs such as the brain, heart and lungs.
support	Our skeletons stop our bodies from falling down.
exoskeleton	A type of skeleton found on the outside of some animals' bodies.

Comparing Skeleton Types

Many animals do not have a **spine**. In fact, less than 5% of all animals have a **spine** – the rest are spineless animals. Animals that do not have a spine are called invertebrates.

Animals with a **spine** have a skeleton that is within the body. It grows as the animal grows and is permanent. Animals that have a spine are called vertebrates.

Hydrostatic Skeleton	Exoskeleton
<p>Animals that have a hydrostatic skeleton don't have any bones or stiff structures to support them.</p> <p>Instead, these animals have a fluid-filled compartment in their body called a coelom.</p>	<p>An exoskeleton provides natural armour and defence against predators and the environment.</p> <p>Exoskeletons do not grow bigger, so animals that have an exoskeleton shed their old exoskeleton before growing a new one.</p>
<p>Examples: slugs, squid, worms, jellyfish and octopuses.</p>	<p>Examples: ants, grasshoppers, crabs and beetles.</p>

