Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

What Is a Backbone?

Read the big idea. Then fill in the blanks.



Big idea

A backbone is a long row of small bones down the middle of your back. It helps you stand straight, move and bend. Animals with a backbone are called vertebrates.

back **straight** **bend** **bones**

1. A backbone is a set of small _____.
2. It runs down the middle of our _____.
3. It helps us stand up _____.
4. It lets us move and _____.

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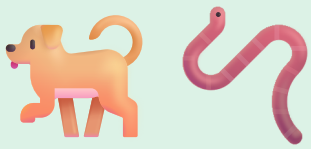
Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Two Big Groups

Read, then circle the right word.



Two groups

Vertebrates have a backbone. Invertebrates have no backbone. Some invertebrates have a soft body; some have a hard shell outside.

1. Animals with a backbone are ___.

vertebrates / invertebrates

2. Animals with no backbone are ___.

vertebrates / invertebrates

3. Do people have a backbone?

yes / no

4. Does a worm have a backbone?

yes / no

Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Backbone or No Backbone?

Look at each animal. Circle the right group.

1.  fish — has a backbone / no backbone

2.  spider — has a backbone / no backbone

3.  bird — has a backbone / no backbone

4.  snail — has a backbone / no backbone

5.  cow — has a backbone / no backbone

6.  butterfly — has a backbone / no backbone

7.  frog — has a backbone / no backbone

8.  ant — has a backbone / no backbone

Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Sort the Animals

Write each animal in the right box.

lion | octopus | snake | bee | elephant | worm | penguin | ladybird

vertebrate	invertebrate

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Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Soft Bodies and Shells

Fill in the blanks.

soft | shell | legs | wings



1. A worm has a _____ body.



2. A snail carries a hard _____.



3. A spider has eight _____.



4. A bee has _____ to fly.

Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

True or False?

Circle true or false.

1. A fish has a backbone. True False

2. An octopus has a backbone. True False

3. Most animals in the world are invertebrates. True False

4. A worm can stand straight like us. True False

5. Birds are vertebrates. True False

6. A ladybird is an invertebrate. True False

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Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Feel Your Backbone

Do the activity, then answer.

Ask a grown-up to run a finger slowly down the middle of your back. Can you feel the small bumps? Each bump is one bone.

1. I can feel small _____ down my back.

2. My backbone helps me _____ to touch my toes.

3. Without a backbone I could not stand _____.

Draw yourself bending to touch your toes.

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Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Know, Want, Learned

Fill in your chart.

I know: _____

I want to know: _____

I learned: _____

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Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Match the Animal

Match each animal to a fact.

Write the letter in the box.

☐	1. jellyfish	a)	has a backbone and a hard shell
☐	2. tortoise	b)	long soft body, lives in soil
☐	3. spider	c)	eight legs, no backbone
☐	4. eagle	d)	soft body, no bones, lives in the sea
☐	5. earthworm	e)	has a backbone, feathers and wings

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Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Show What You Know

Answer the questions.

1. Name two animals with a backbone: _____ and _____.

2. Name two animals with no backbone: _____ and _____.

3. Animals with a backbone are called _____.

4. Animals without a backbone are called _____.

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ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

What Is a Backbone?

Read the big idea. Then fill in the blanks.



Big idea

A backbone is a long row of small bones down the middle of your back. It helps you stand straight, move and bend. Animals with a backbone are called vertebrates.

back **straight** **bend** **bones**

1. A backbone is a set of small **bones** .
2. It runs down the middle of our **back** .
3. It helps us stand up **straight** .
4. It lets us move and **bend** .

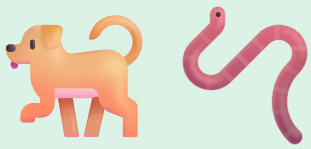
ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Two Big Groups

Read, then circle the right word.



Two groups

Vertebrates have a backbone. Invertebrates have no backbone. Some invertebrates have a soft body; some have a hard shell outside.

1. Animals with a backbone are ___.

vertebrates invertebrates

2. Animals with no backbone are ___.

vertebrates **invertebrates**

3. Do people have a backbone?

yes no

4. Does a worm have a backbone?

yes **no**

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ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Backbone or No Backbone?

Look at each animal. Circle the right group.

1.  fish — **has a backbone** / no backbone

2.  spider — has a backbone / **no backbone**

3.  bird — **has a backbone** / no backbone

4.  snail — has a backbone / **no backbone**

5.  cow — **has a backbone** / no backbone

6.  butterfly — has a backbone / **no backbone**

7.  frog — **has a backbone** / no backbone

8.  ant — has a backbone / **no backbone**

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Sort the Animals

Write each animal in the right box.

lion | octopus | snake | bee | elephant | worm | penguin | ladybird

vertebrate	invertebrate
lion	octopus
snake	bee
elephant	worm
penguin	ladybird

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Soft Bodies and Shells

Fill in the blanks.

soft | shell | legs | wings



1. A worm has a **soft** body.



2. A snail carries a hard **shell** .



3. A spider has eight **legs** .



4. A bee has **wings** to fly.

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

True or False?

Circle true or false.

1. A fish has a backbone. **True** False

2. An octopus has a backbone. True **False**

3. Most animals in the world are invertebrates. **True** False

4. A worm can stand straight like us. True **False**

5. Birds are vertebrates. **True** False

6. A ladybird is an invertebrate. **True** False

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Feel Your Backbone

Do the activity, then answer.

Ask a grown-up to run a finger slowly down the middle of your back. Can you feel the small bumps? Each bump is one bone.

1. I can feel small **bumps** down my back.
2. My backbone helps me **bend** to touch my toes.
3. Without a backbone I could not stand **straight** .

Draw yourself bending to touch your toes.

Drawings will vary.

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Know, Want, Learned

Fill in your chart.

I know: _____

I want to know: _____

I learned: _____

Answers will vary.

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Match the Animal

Match each animal to a fact.

Write the letter in the box.

d	1.	jellyfish
a	2.	tortoise
c	3.	spider
e	4.	eagle
b	5.	earthworm

a) has a backbone and a hard shell

b) long soft body, lives in soil

c) eight legs, no backbone

d) soft body, no bones, lives in the sea

e) has a backbone, feathers and wings

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

Science · Animals with and without a backbone

Show What You Know

Answer the questions.

1. Name two animals with a backbone: dog and bird .

2. Name two animals with no backbone: worm and ant .

3. Animals with a backbone are called vertebrates .

4. Animals without a backbone are called invertebrates .