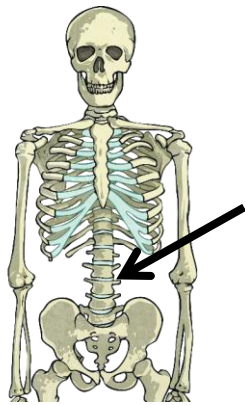


Skeletons

Skeletons can be sorted into 2 main groups.

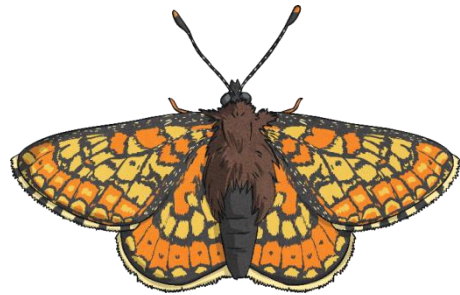
Vertebrates and invertebrates, vertebrates have a backbone and invertebrates don't.

Vertebrates



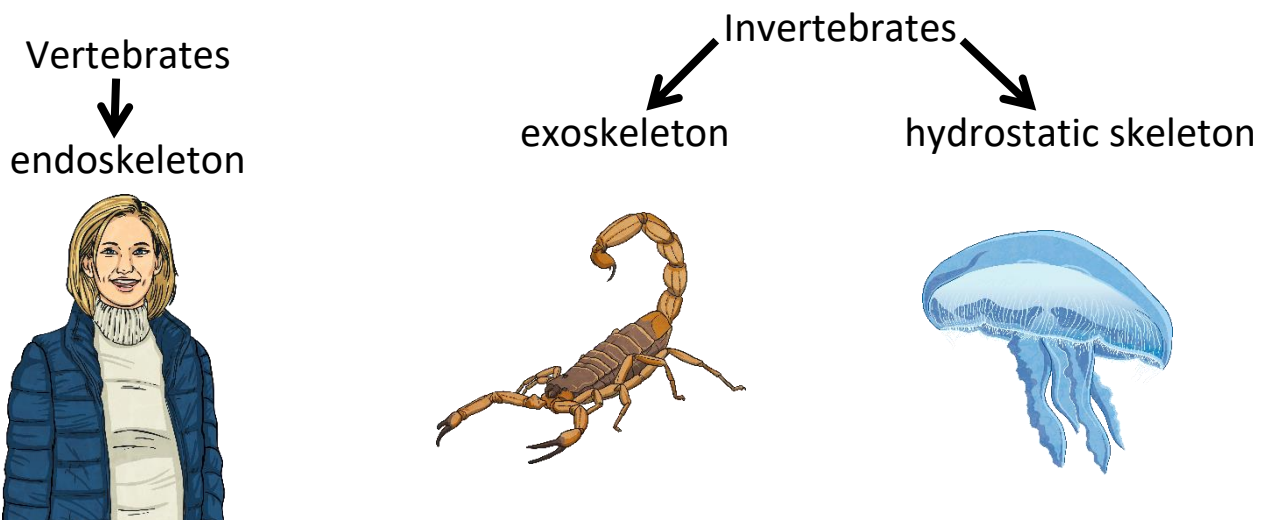
Backbone
(spine)

Invertebrates



Vertebrates and invertebrates can also be sorted into whether they have an endoskeleton, exoskeleton or a hydrostatic skeleton.

All vertebrates have an endoskeleton. However invertebrates can be divided again between those with an exoskeleton and those with a hydrostatic skeleton.

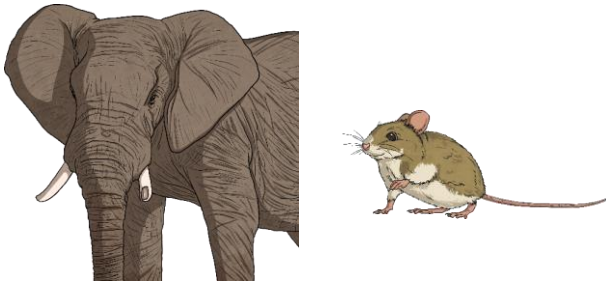


Endoskeletons

Animals with endoskeletons have skeletons on the inside of their bodies.

Endoskeletons are lighter than exoskeletons.

As the animal grows so does their skeleton.



Exoskeletons

Animals with exoskeletons have their skeletons on the outside!

Exoskeletons do not grow with the animal. Therefore the animal has to shed its skeleton and produce a new one!



Hydrostatic skeletons

Animals with hydrostatic skeletons don't actually have any bones!

All animals with hydro-static skeletons are invertebrates.

Instead these animals have a fluid-filled compartment in their body called a coelom.

