

Name _____



The Skeletal System

The skeletal system supports the body and gives it shape. Another function of the skeletal system is to work with muscles to move the body. A third function of the skeletal system is to protect the soft organs and body parts. For example, the **skull** protects the brain, while the **ribs** and **breastbone (sternum)** protect the lungs and heart. The backbone is made up of tiny bones called **vertebrae** that protect the spinal cord.

The skeleton is made up of 206 bones. Besides bones, the skeleton also has a type of rubbery tissue called **cartilage** in all the places where two bones meet. The cartilage cushions the bones and keeps them from rubbing together. The outer ear and the tip of the nose are very flexible because they are made up of cartilage.

The place where two or more bones join together, such as in the elbow or ankle, is called a **joint**. There are several different types of joints in the body. **Ligaments** connect the bones in the joints of the body and help to keep them in place.

Bones have a hard outer covering that is made up of tiny tubes. Nerves and blood vessels run through the tiny tubes of the outer layer. Underneath the outer layer is a hard, strong layer of bone cells that is surrounded by deposits of minerals such as calcium and phosphorous. The inner layer of bone is spongy with many air spaces.

In the very center of the bone is a large space filled with a type of tissue called **marrow**. Bone marrow is a soft tissue that makes new blood cells.

Answer each question.

1. What are the three functions of your skeletal system? _____

2. What is cartilage and where can it be found in your body? _____

3. What is the purpose of ligaments? _____

4. What is bone marrow? _____



Name _____

I Did Not Know That!

Use the code to learn more about bones.

Code						
A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	D = 4	E = 5	F = 6	G = 7
H = 8	I = 9	J = 10	K = 11	L = 12	M = 13	N = 14
O = 15	P = 16	Q = 17	R = 18	S = 19	T = 20	U = 21
V = 22	W = 23	X = 24	Y = 25	Z = 26		

1. At birth, there are about 350 of these. As the body grows, they fuse together. Adults only have 206 of these.

$\overline{2} \quad \overline{15} \quad \overline{14} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{19}$

2. Bone is five times stronger than a bar of the same weight made out of this.

$\overline{19} \quad \overline{20} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{12}$

3. The largest bone, called the femur, is located in this part of the body.

$\overline{20} \quad \overline{8} \quad \overline{9} \quad \overline{7} \quad \overline{8}$

4. Nearly half of the bones are found in these parts of the body.

$\overline{8} \quad \overline{1} \quad \overline{14} \quad \overline{4} \quad \overline{19}$ and $\overline{6} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{20}$

5. The smallest bones are located in this part of the body. They are called the hammer, the anvil, and the stirrup.

$\overline{5} \quad \overline{1} \quad \overline{18}$

6. Even though this is called a bone, it is really a nerve that is found on the back of the elbow that is close to the bone. It is very painful when it gets hit.

$\overline{6} \quad \overline{21} \quad \overline{14} \quad \overline{14} \quad \overline{25} \quad \overline{2} \quad \overline{15} \quad \overline{14} \quad \overline{5}$

