

**Chapter 33 Comparing Chordates****Observing Vertebrate Skeletons**

You may want to refer students to Section 33-3 in the textbook before performing this investigation.  
Time required: 45 minutes

**Introduction**

The body plans of all vertebrates are similar in some ways. One characteristic shared by all vertebrates is the presence of a skeleton. The skeleton of a vertebrate is an endoskeleton, or internal skeleton. It is made up, in part, of living cells and thus is able to grow. It is not shed as are many exoskeletons. The endoskeleton provides support, protects the internal organs, and is a site for the attachment of muscles.

Skeletal similarities are evidence that these different animals have evolved from a common ancestor. Structures such as bones that have a common origin but different function are called homologous structures.

In this investigation, you will compare the skeletons of several different vertebrates and look for evidence of homologous structures. You will also classify unknown bone specimens.

**Problem**

If actual skeletons or models are available, they should be used in conjunction with this investigation. Vertebrate skeletons can be obtained from a biological supply house.

What are the similarities and differences among vertebrate skeletons?  
What homologous structures can be identified on these skeletons?

**Pre-Lab Discussion**

Read the entire investigation. Then, work with a partner to answer the following questions.

1. What will you be comparing in this investigation?

The skeletons of a human, a frog, a crocodile, a pigeon, a cat, and an unknown animal.

2. What do the animals you will be studying in this investigation all have in common?

They are all vertebrates.

3. What evidence will you be looking for to demonstrate that vertebrates share a common ancestor?

The presence of homologous structures.

4. Based on the investigation title and the other animals you will be studying in this investigation, from what group of animals will the mystery bones come?

The mystery bones are part of a vertebrate.

5. How will you determine which parts of the skeleton the mystery bones come from?

By comparing them to the bones in the skeletons that are illustrated.

# Observing Vertebrate Skeletons Lab Answers

**Joseph S. Levine, Kenneth Raymond  
Miller, Prentice-Hall Staff**



## Observing Vertebrate Skeletons Lab Answers:

*Chapter Resource 32 Introduction/Vertebrates Biology* Holt Rinehart & Winston, Holt, Rinehart and Winston Staff, 2004

**Miller Levine Biology 1e Lab Manual a (Average Advanced) Student Edition 2002c** Prentice Hall Direct Education Staff, 2001-04 One program that ensures success for all students **Prentice Hall Miller Levine Biology Laboratory**

**Manual a for Students Second Edition 2004** Kenneth Raymond Miller, Joseph S. Levine, Prentice-Hall Staff, 2003-02 Authors Kenneth Miller and Joseph Levine continue to set the standard for clear accessible writing and up to date content that engages student interest Prentice Hall Biology utilizes a student friendly approach that provides a powerful framework for connecting the key concepts a biology Students explore concepts through engaging narrative frequent use of analogies familiar examples and clear and instructional graphics Whether using the text alone or in tandem with exceptional ancillaries and technology teachers can meet the needs of every student at every learning level **Fifty-two Years of Research, Observation and Publication, 1877-1929** Henry Fairfield Osborn, Harriet Ernestine Ripley, 1930 Prentice Hall Biology, 2002 Irvine Welsh, Prentice-Hall Staff, 2001-04 One program that ensures success for all students **Biology** Joseph S. Levine, Kenneth Raymond Miller, Prentice-Hall Staff, 1998-05 Life Science, Grades 6-7 Tony Wright, 1994-07-13

*Exploring Biology in the Laboratory: Core Concepts* Murray P. Pendarvis, John L. Crawley, 2019-02-01 Exploring Biology in the Laboratory Core Concepts is a comprehensive manual appropriate for introductory biology lab courses This edition is designed for courses populated by nonmajors or for majors courses where abbreviated coverage is desired Based on the two semester version of Exploring Biology in the Laboratory 3e this Core Concepts edition features a streamlined set of clearly written activities with abbreviated coverage of the biodiversity of life These exercises emphasize the unity of all living things and the evolutionary forces that have resulted in and continue to act on the diversity that we see around us today Science Made Simple Irving P. Crump, 1993 Collection of teaching units in science selected from the 1987 to 1993 issues of The mailbox intermediate ed **Holt Biosources** Holt, Rinehart and Winston Staff, Sasse, 1998 **Explorations in Basic Biology** Stanley E. Gunstream, John Stanley Babel, 1972 Biology Eric Strauss, Marilyn Lisowski, 2000 **Annotated Instructor's Edition for Investigating Biology** Judith Giles Morgan, 1999 **Catalogue of Scientific Papers** Royal Society (Great Britain), 1921 Catalogue of Scientific Papers (1800-1900): Supplementary volume. 1800-1883 Royal Society (Great Britain), 1921 Catalogue of Scientific Papers (1800-1900): ser. 4 , 1884-1900 Royal Society (Great Britain), 1921 Publications of the Teaching Staff , 1909 *Bulletin of Washington University* Washington University (Saint Louis, Mo.). School of Medicine, 1921 **Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology** , 2006 *Chemical Abstracts* , 1921

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