

Classifying Vertebrates



What Can You Feel?

Reach your hand behind your back.

Place your hand on the middle of your back and run your fingers up and down.

Talk
about
It!

What can you feel?

The lumps you can feel going up the middle of your back are part of your backbone. The technical word for the backbone is your spine.

The spine is a series of bones called vertebrae. The spine helps us stay upright and helps us twist and move. It also protects special things called nerves which carry messages to and from the brain.



What is a Vertebrate?

A vertebrate is an animal that has a spine. As we have just felt our own spines, that means humans are vertebrates.

Animals that don't have spines are called invertebrates.

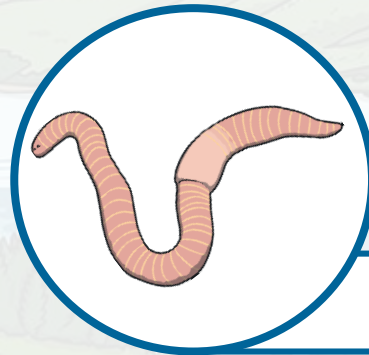
Talk
about
It!

Can you think of some animals that might be invertebrates?

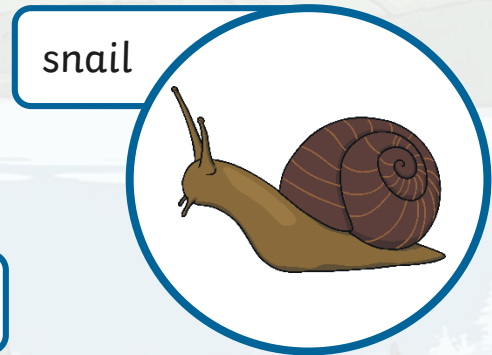
Click to see some animals that are invertebrates.



slug



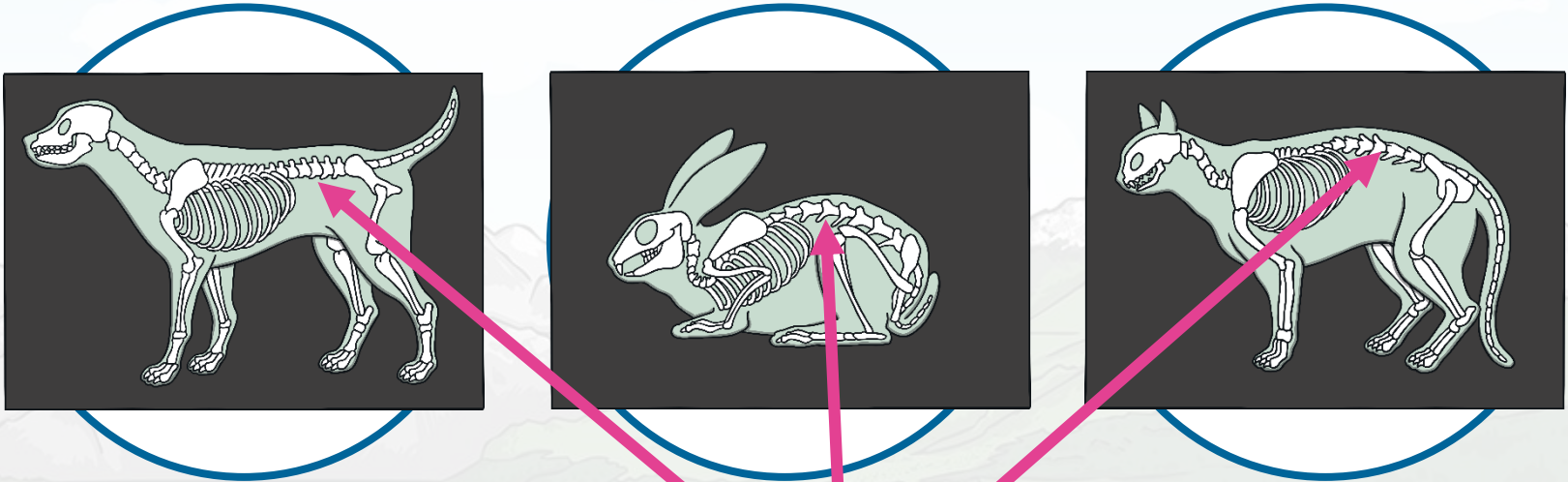
worm



snail

Vertebrates

Cats, rabbits and dogs are all vertebrates, which means they have spines.
Click on the animal to perform an x-ray and reveal its skeleton.



Talk
about
It!

Can you see the animals' spines?