

Fantastic Beasts!

All animals that have backbones (spines) are called *vertebrates* because they have a backbone made of many *vertebrae*. You have a backbone. You are a *vertebrate*!

All *vertebrates* have mostly the same bones, but their bones may be different sizes and shapes because of differences in how they move and what they eat. Let's explore these differences by making your own fantastic animal!

Follow the instructions below, and feel free to ask for help if you need it. 😊

1. To start, scan the QR code (<https://youtu.be/LMWYEL2v09g>) to learn all about amazing animal adaptations.

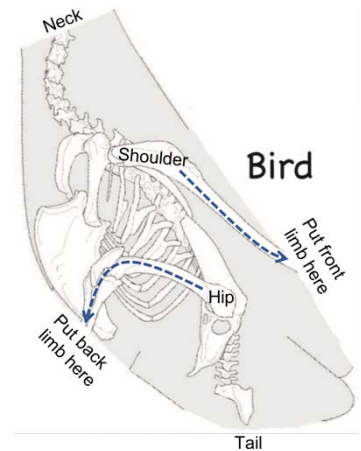


2. Read through the different types of animals on the next pages.

3. Carefully use scissors to cut out the body parts from the other pages in this packet. As you cut them, sort the body parts into piles. You will have 5 piles.

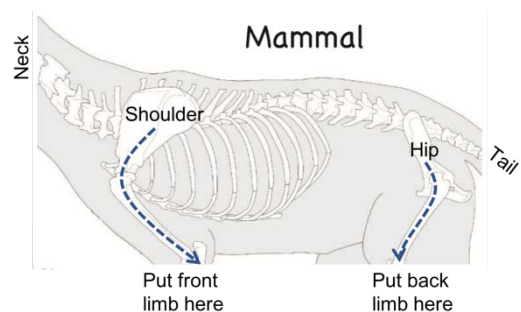
- Heads and skulls
- Bodies
- Forelimbs (Front legs, arms, and wings)
- Hindlimbs (Back legs, or bird legs)
- Finishing touches (Horns, fins, and tails)

4. After cutting and sorting your body parts, choose the limbs you want for your animal. Depending on the limbs you choose, your animal will be a runner, a swimmer, or a flier. Select a head based on what you want your animal to eat. Finally, select some finishing touches for your animal.



5. On the last page of this packet, put together your special animal. It is like a puzzle!

- Attach the frontlimb (leg, wing, arm) at your animal's shoulder blade.
- Attach the hindlimb (legs) at your animal's hip.



6. Answer the question on the next two pages

Carnivores

Carnivores, like this bear, are meat eaters.

They have sharp teeth and strong jaw muscles

Bear



Herbivores

Sheep and other herbivores eat only plants

They have big, flat teeth for grinding up their food.

Sheep



Omnivores

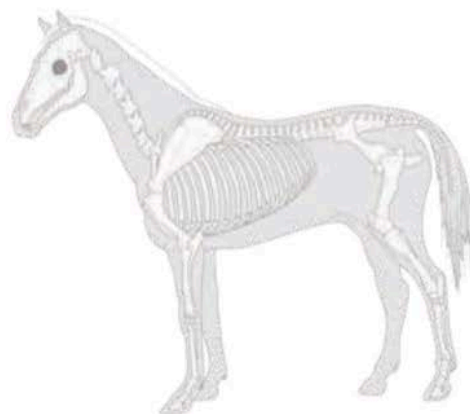
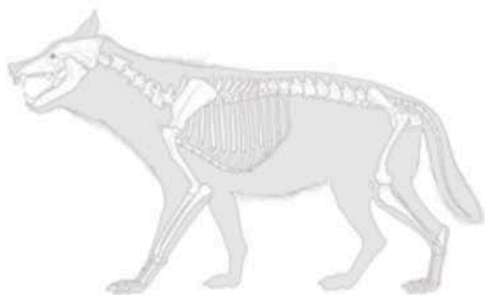
Animals that eat both meat and plants are called omnivores.

Many birds, like this raven, are omnivores

Raven



Runners



ALL runners walk and run on their tip toes!

Carnivores run to hunt and catch other animals.

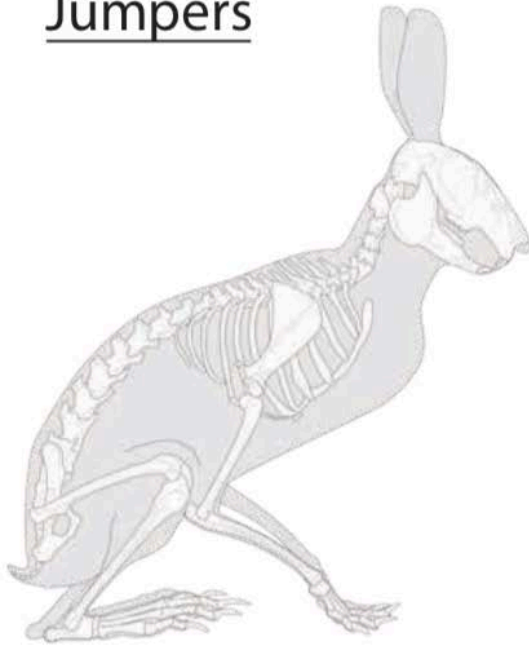
They need to be very flexible, so the bones in their spine (vertebrae) are small and their leg bones are long and narrow

Herbivores run fast to get away from other animals.

They have big vertebrae, short and wide leg bones, and strong ankles. Together these keep them from falling down.



Jumpers



Jumping animals all have big, strong back legs. Do you know why?

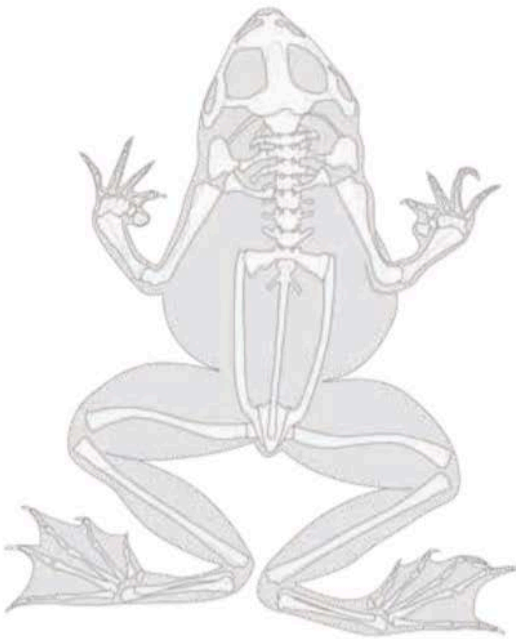
They use their back legs to push against the ground and leap high into the air.

They use their small front legs and tail for balance.

Their back legs have longer bones and stronger muscles than their front legs



Swimmers



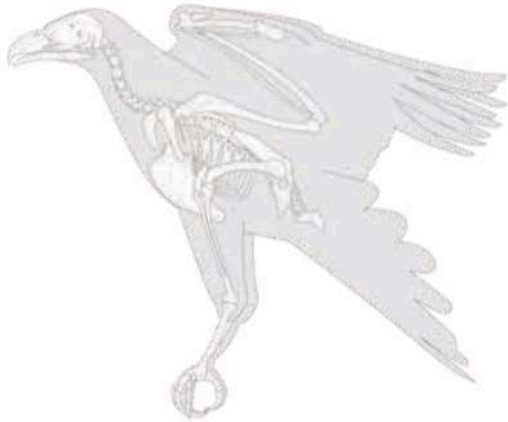
Swimming is hard work!

Animals that spend a lot of time in the water have big muscles and short, thick bones to support those muscles.

Many swimming animals, like frogs and beavers, also have big back feet with toes that are connected by special skin called a web.



Flyers



Flying animals, like bats and birds, have bones that are long, thin, and lightweight.

Their wings have the same bones that you have in your arms, but their bones are much longer



Let's explore your animal!

- What hindlimb (legs) did you choose for your animal? How will that choice affect how the animal moves? Do they use their back limbs to hold prey?
- What forelimb (leg, arm, wing) did you choose? How will that choice affect how the animal moves? Do they use their front limbs to hold prey?
- The skull and teeth of animals tell you a lot about what they eat. Which head or skull did you choose? Is the head you chose from a carnivore (eats meat) or an herbivore (eats plants) or an omnivore (eats everything)? How do you know?
- Which finishing touches (horns, fins, tail) did you add to your animal? What do you think these pieces help your animal do (balance, protect, move)?

Tell a story about your special animal 😊

- Where does it live?
- Does it live alone or with other animals in a group? If it lives in a group, what is that group called (herd, flock, family)?
- Is your animal small or large?
- Does it hide from other animals?

Glue your special animal together here. Give it a name 😊

Your animal's name: _____