

Animal skeletons

Reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds and mammals who all have a backbone are called vertebrates.

We have a skeleton inside our body. This is called an endoskeleton.

Spiders, insects and crustaceans have a skeleton on the outside of their body. This is called an exoskeleton.

Skeleton key words



The same but different

- What animal do you think this skeleton belongs to?
- What is the same about all the skeletons?

Skeleton key words



All skeletons have...
...lots of separate bones.

Skeleton key words



All skeletons have...
...a skull

This is to protect the brain

Skeleton key words



All skeletons have...
...a backbone (spine,
vertebral column).

This is to protect the spinal cord.

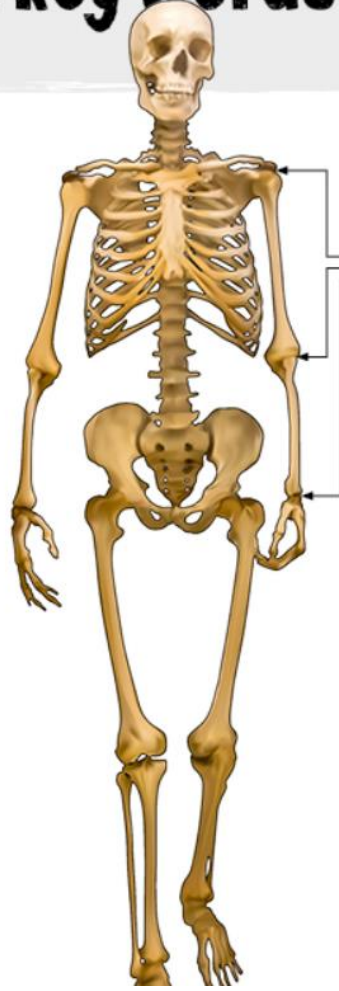
Skeleton key words



All skeletons have...
...ribs).

These are to protect the internal organs, e.g. heart.

Skeleton key words



**All skeletons have...
...joints).**

These help the animal to move.

Skeleton key words



Some skeletons have...
...limbs (legs, arms, wings).

These help the animal to move.

- Can you think of an animal that has a skeleton but no limbs?

Skeleton key words



A snake

It still has a skull, backbone, ribs, joints, but no limbs.

It uses muscles to help it slide along the ground.

All skeletons need muscles and joints in order to move.

Three roles of the skeleton

Protection

Movement

Support

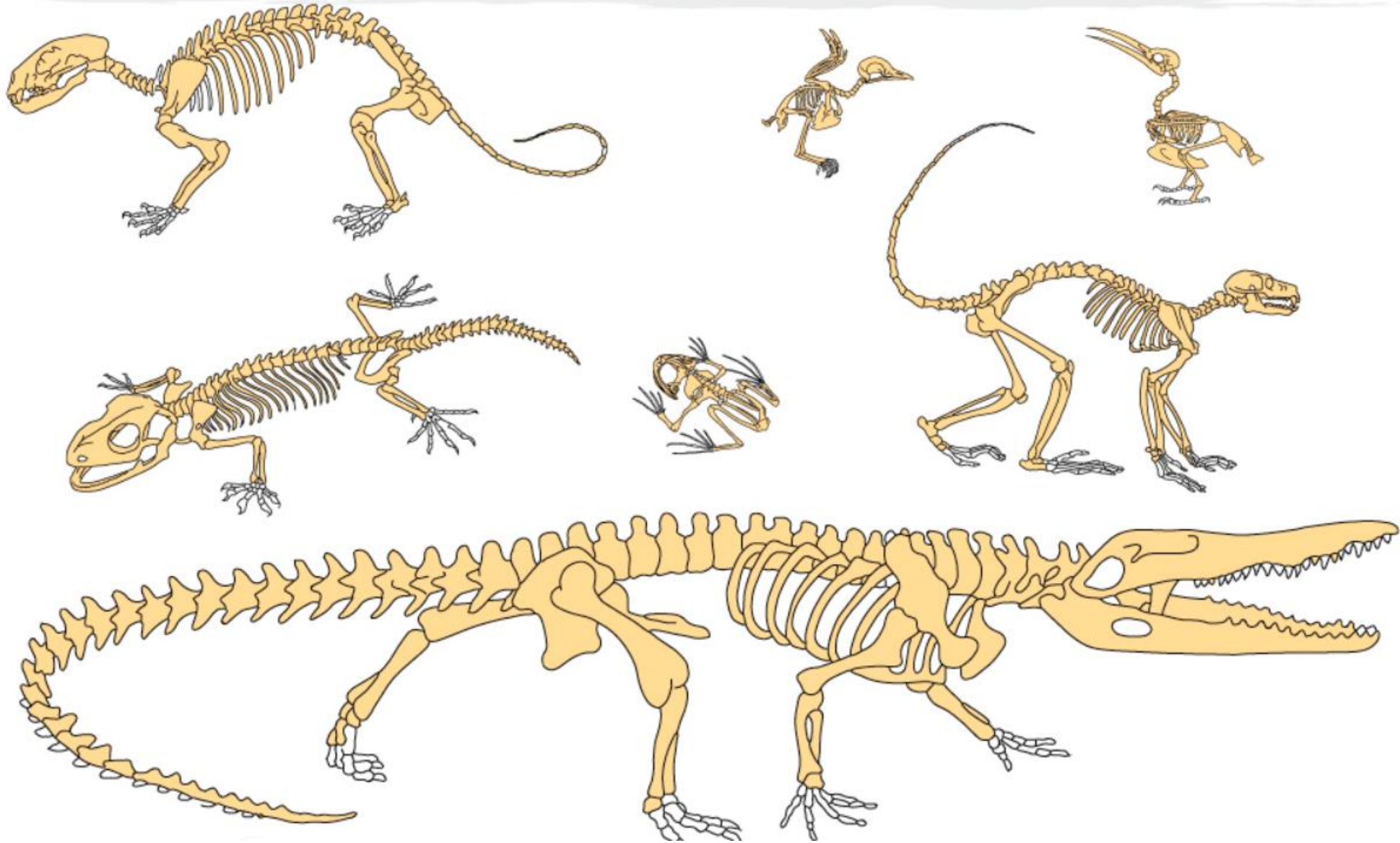
Key vocabulary

protect • muscles • support

backbone • move • brain

skull • skeleton • ribs • joints

bones • heart • spinal column



Can you
guess the
animal
from their
skeleton?

