
Vertebrae

Segments of bone or some other hard substance that are arranged into a backbone

Notochord

A rod of tough, flexible material that runs the length of a creature's body, providing the majority of its support

Endoskeleton

A skeleton on the inside of a creature's body, typically composed of bone or cartilage

Bone marrow

A soft tissue inside the bone that produces blood cells

Axial skeleton

The portion of the skeleton that supports and protects the head, neck, and trunk

Appendicular skeleton

The portion of the skeleton that attaches to the axial skeleton and has the limbs attached to it

Closed circulatory system

A circulatory system in which the oxygen-carrying blood cells never leave the blood vessels

Arteries

Blood vessels that carry blood away from the heart

Capillaries

Tiny, thin-walled blood vessels that allow the exchange of gases and nutrients between the blood and the cells of the body

Veins

Blood vessels that carry blood back to the heart

Olfactory lobes

The lobes of the brain that receive signals from the receptors in the nose

Cerebrum

The lobes of the brain that integrate sensory information and coordinate the creature's response to that information

Optic lobes

The lobes of the brain that receive signals from the receptors in the eyes

Cerebellum

The lobe that controls involuntary actions and refines muscle movement

Medulla oblongata

The lobes that coordinate vital functions, such as those of the circulatory and respiratory systems, and transport signals from the brain to the spinal chord

Internal fertilization

The process by which the male places sperm inside the female's body, where the eggs are fertilized

External fertilization

The process by which the female lays eggs and the male fertilizes them once they are outside of the female

Oviparous development

Development that occurs in an egg that is hatched outside the female's body

Ovoviviparous development

Development that occurs in an egg that is hatched inside the female's body

Viviparous development

Development that occurs inside the female, allowing the offspring to gain nutrients and vital substances from the mother through a placenta

Anadromous

A life cycle in which creatures are hatched in fresh water, migrate to salt water as adults, and then go back to fresh water in order to reproduce

Bile

A mixture of salts and phospholipids that aids in the breakdown of fat

Atrium

A heart chamber that receives blood

Ventricle

A heart chamber from which blood is pumped out

Ectothermic

Lacking an internal mechanism for regulating body heat

Hibernation

A state of extremely low metabolism and respiration, accompanied by lower-than-normal body temperatures
