

SKELLETAL SCAVENGER HUNT

Explore the Museum's Exhibits to **solve the clues and learn more about the importance of an animal's bones.** All vertebrates have a backbone and skeletal structure for support and strength. Can you find them all?



First, let's learn a little about structure! Animals without bones rely on a tough outer covering called an exoskeleton for support. When found inside the animal, what is this support structure of bones called?



Step over to the duck display case and give the mallard duck a spin to see its skeleton on display. Look at the lightweight bones which help the duck float. What other unique features does a duck have that helps improve its buoyancy, or ability to float?



Take a second to wiggle your fingers. Do you think if you wiggled your fingers hard enough you could fly? This is not something humans will ever be able to do, but these cave dwelling creatures do use the skin stretched between their finger bones to fly!



The large, impressive horns made of bone on this animal serve a dual purpose. During the winter, they use their horns to dig underneath snow and ice to find food. Also, whenever threatened, these animals use the sharp end of their horns to protect the members of their herd.



Mollusk shells are made of bone, but unlike animals with vertebrates, their bones are not made of living cells that divide to grow larger. Mollusks secrete calcium deposits that add layers to their shells to grow. This type of mollusk adds layers to a cone shaped shell.



Antlers, they do a body good, at least for rodents and other small creatures of the forest. In order to ingest this needed mineral, these animals chew and gnaw on dropped antlers that they find on the forest floor. There's no use crying over dropped antlers!