

Animal Classification Review — Vertebrates and Invertebrates

Base Sheet

Activity Sheet

The child reviews animal classification with a focus on vertebrates (animals with backbones) and invertebrates (animals without). They sort animals from all four biomes into these categories, building a comprehensive understanding of the animal kingdom.

What You Need:

- Animal cards from biome studies (at least 15-20)
- Two-column sorting mat (Vertebrate, Invertebrate)
- Diagram showing backbone/spine
- Paper and crayons for drawing

Steps:

1. 'We have studied many animals in our biome lessons. Now let's organize them! All animals belong to one of two big groups.'
2. 'Feel your backbone. Put your hand on the back of your neck. Feel those bumps? That is your BACKBONE — your spine!'
3. 'Animals WITH backbones are called VERTEBRATES. Animals WITHOUT backbones are called INVERTEBRATES.'
4. 'Show examples: vertebrates (fish, frogs, snakes, birds, mammals). Invertebrates (insects, spiders, worms, jellyfish, octopus)'.
5. 'Sort animals from all biome studies: Is a dolphin a vertebrate or invertebrate? A spider? A lion?'
6. 'Most of the animals on Earth are invertebrates — especially insects!'
7. Draw one vertebrate and one invertebrate. Label the backbone.

Work Space:

A large, dashed rectangular border occupies the bottom half of the page, intended for the child to draw a vertebrate and an invertebrate, and label the backbone of the vertebrate.

Montessori Homeschool • Print on US Letter (8.5 x 11") • Activity sheet — print on standard paper