

Animal Kingdom — Vertebrates and Invertebrates

Base Sheet

Activity Sheet

Introduction to the first great division of the animal kingdom: animals with backbones (vertebrates) and animals without (invertebrates). The child sorts animal pictures into two groups.

What You Need:

- Animal picture cards (10-15 animals)
- Two sorting labels: Vertebrate / Invertebrate
- Work mat
- Skeleton model or image (optional)
- Magnifying glass (optional)

Steps:

1. 'All animals belong to a big family called the Animal Kingdom. Today we learn the **FIRST** way to sort them.'
2. 'Feel your own backbone.' Run your hand down the middle of your back. Feel those bumps? That is your **BACKBONE** or **SPINE**.'
3. 'Some animals have a backbone like us — they are called **VERTEBRATES**.' Show pictures: cat, fish, bird, frog, snake.
4. 'Some animals have **NO** backbone — they are **INVERTEBRATES**.' Show: worm, butterfly, jellyfish, spider, snail.
5. Sort picture cards into two groups.
6. 'Which group has **MORE** animals in the world? Invertebrates — by far!'

Work Space:

