

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.'
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:

A large, dashed rectangular border occupies the bottom half of the page, intended for the child's work space.

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