

Animal Classification — Vertebrates and Invertebrates

Base Sheet

Activity Sheet

The child learns the fundamental division of the animal kingdom: animals with backbones (vertebrates) and animals without (invertebrates). Using figurines and pictures, the child sorts animals into these two groups.

What You Need:

- Animal figurines or picture cards (6 vertebrates, 6 invertebrates)
- Two sorting mats or trays
- Labels: 'Vertebrate' and 'Invertebrate'
- Optional: diagram of a skeleton

Steps:

1. 'All animals can be divided into two big groups. Feel your backbone — those bumps down your back. You have a BACKBONE!'
2. 'Animals with backbones are called VERTEBRATES. Animals without are INVERTEBRATES.'
3. Show animal figurines/pictures: dog, fish, frog, bird, snake — all vertebrates. 'They all have backbones!'
4. Show: worm, butterfly, spider, snail, jellyfish — invertebrates. 'No backbones!'
5. Sorting activity: two labeled mats, child sorts 10-12 animals.
6. 'Which group has more animals in the world?' (Invertebrates — many more!)

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