

Structure and Function in Living Systems

Name: _____

Vertebrate Characteristics

Period: _____

Use Chapter 14, Section 2 of your textbook to answer the questions below. The word banks can be used to fill out the sentences below them.

bone California cartilage endoskeleton fish membrane muscles sexual
sexual shell tadpole vertebrae vertebrates

Vertebrate Characteristics (p.434)

1. What are animals with a backbone called? _____
2. The backbone is made of a set of bones called _____ .
3. An _____ is an internal skeleton made of bone and cartilage.
4. _____ attach to an endoskeleton to help the animal move.
- _____ 5. What are the five main groups of vertebrates?
 - a. insects, worms, birds, fish, mammals
 - b. mollusks, annelids, sea urchins, snakes, humans
 - c. fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals
 - d. insects, reptiles, birds, mammals, humans



6. Vertebrates reproduce mainly by _____ reproduction.

Fish (p.435)

7. Over half of the species of vertebrates on Earth are _____ .
8. Cartilaginous fish have a skeleton made of a flexible tissue called _____ .
9. Bony fish have a skeleton made of _____ .
10. Look at Figure 10. What state has kelp forests where Garibaldi fish live? _____



Amphibians (p.435)

- _____ 11. Why do most amphibians live near fresh water?
 - a. Their eggs and larvae need water to survive.
 - b. They breathe through gills.
 - c. They are dry skinned and need water.
 - d. It is the only place to find food.
12. When a frog is in the larval stage of its life cycle, it is called a _____ .



Reptiles (p.435)

- _____ 13. Which of the following is a reason why most reptiles live on land?
 - a. They cannot swim.
 - b. Their skin must be kept dry.
 - c. They do not need water to lay their eggs.
 - d. They all eat other vertebrates.
14. A _____ and a _____ keep reptile eggs from drying out.
15. Reptiles reproduce mainly by _____ reproduction.



turn over for more questions

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hair kangaroo marsupials milk monotremes placental reptiles sexual sexual

Birds (p.436)

16. The structure of birds' feet are similar to those of _____ .

_____ 17. Which of the following characteristics is only found in birds?

- a. They have the ability to fly.
- b. They have feathers.
- c. They are endothermic.
- d. They reproduce by sexual reproduction.

_____ 18. Which bird uses its wings to swim?

- a. the penguin
- b. the emu
- c. the duck
- d. the ostrich

19. All birds reproduce by _____ reproduction.



Mammals (p.436)

20. One characteristic of mammals is that all mammals have _____ on their bodies.

21. All female mammals can produce _____ for their young.

22. _____ are a kind of mammal that lays eggs with shells.

23. _____ are mammals that have offspring that finish developing in the mother's pouch.

24. _____ mammals have a placenta to exchange wastes and nutrients with developing offspring.

25. All mammals reproduce by _____ reproduction.

26. Look in Figure 14. You can see in one of the pictures that a baby animal is sticking its head out of its mother's pouch. What is the name of the animal with the pouch? _____



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