

Vertebrate Characteristics

Name: _____

Period: _____

Use Chapter 14, Section 2 of your textbook to answer the questions below.

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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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? _____

