

Nova's Science Journal: Skeletons and Muscles

Learning objective: To identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection, and movement.

Use this writing frame to explain how the human body stays upright and moves. Use the word bank to help you write in full sentences.

Nova the owl is fascinated by how living things move, and she has discovered that our bodies rely on a clever partnership between bones and muscles.

Word bank: structure · protection · muscles · contract · joints · support · skeleton · therefore · consequently · in addition

1. What is the main purpose of the human skeleton? Start your sentence with: The skeleton acts as a frame because... (2 marks)

2. How do muscles help us to move? Start your sentence with: Muscles are attached to bones and they work by... (2 marks)

3. Why do we need joints in our bodies? Start your sentence with: Joints are important because they allow... (2 marks)

4. Can you name an organ that the skeleton protects? Start your sentence with: One example of an organ protected by the skeleton is the... (2 marks)

5. What would happen if humans did not have any muscles? Start your sentence with: If we did not have muscles, our bodies would be... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research an animal that has an exoskeleton (like a crab or a beetle). How is its structure different from a human skeleton?