Nova’s Skeleton and Muscle Science Flashcards

Learning objective: To identify and describe the functions of the human skeleton and muscles for support, protection, and movement.

Read the front of the card to test your knowledge. Flip it over (or read the answer part) to see if you are correct. Can you explain these facts to a partner?

What is the main job of the skeleton?

The skeleton provides support for our bodies, protects our internal organs, and helps us stand up straight.

Which part of the skeleton protects the brain?

The skull protects the brain.

What is the function of the ribcage?

The ribcage protects delicate organs like the heart and the lungs.

What do we call the places where two bones meet, allowing the body to bend?

These are called joints.

What is the name of the long row of bones that runs down your back?

The spine (or backbone).

How do muscles help us move?

Muscles are attached to bones. They pull on the bones to make them move.

Do muscles push or pull bones to create movement?

Muscles pull on bones. They work in pairs to pull in different directions.

What would happen to our bodies if we did not have a skeleton?

We would be like a jelly-like blob and would not be able to stand or move properly.

Are muscles soft or hard?

Muscles are soft, but they can become firm and tight when they contract to move a bone.

Nova the owl wants to know: what is the scientific name for the bones in our fingers?

These are called phalanges.

True or False: All animals have an internal skeleton.

False. Some animals, like insects, have an outer shell called an exoskeleton.