

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to identify key features of animal skeletons, understand their functions, and describe how different animals adapt their skeletons to their environments.

Materials and Prep

- Pencil and paper for notes and drawings.
- Access to a computer or tablet for research (if available).
- Books or articles about animal skeletons (if available).
- Space to move around and possibly draw or create models (a table or a flat surface).

Before the lesson, it may be helpful to look up some images of animal skeletons online or in books to use as references during activities.

Activities

- **Skeleton Scavenger Hunt:**

Create a scavenger hunt where the student finds pictures or information about different animal skeletons. They can look for animals like cats, dogs, birds, and whales. For each animal, they can note down how many bones they have and any special features.

- **Build Your Own Skeleton:**

Using only what they have at home (like straws, sticks, or even paper), the student can create a model of an animal skeleton. They can choose an animal they like and try to replicate its skeleton as closely as possible.

- **Skeleton Comparison:**

Choose two animals with very different skeletons (like a bird and an elephant). The student can draw both skeletons and write down the differences and similarities they observe, focusing on how each skeleton is suited for the animal's lifestyle.

- **Fun Facts Presentation:**

Have the student prepare a short presentation on a specific animal skeleton. They can share interesting facts about the animal's bones, how they help the animal move, and any unique adaptations.

Talking Points

- "Did you know that the human skeleton has 206 bones? How many bones do you think a whale has?"
- "Animal skeletons are designed for their way of life. For example, birds have lightweight bones to help them fly. Can you think of other animals with special skeletons?"
- "The shape of bones can tell us a lot about how an animal moves. What do you think the

skeleton of a fast animal looks like?"

- "Some animals, like snakes, don't have legs, but they still have a skeleton! What do you think makes their skeleton special?"
- "Skeletons can also protect organs. For example, our ribcage protects our heart and lungs. What do you think protects the heart of a fish?"