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STUDY NOTES

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Science

CHAPTER: 9 How Animals Move

Today's Topic: Bones

The skull encloses and protects the brain. It sits at the top of a flexible bony column called the **spine** or **backbone**. Each part of the backbone is called a **vertebra**. There are thirty-three vertebrae in the human backbone joined together in such a way that the backbone is able to bend forward, backward and sideways to some extent- Joined to the upper part of the backbone is a cage-like structure formed by curved strips of bones called **ribs**.

There are twenty-four ribs arranged in twelve pairs and all are joined to the backbone. Many important organs of the body, such as the heart and lungs, are enclosed in and protected by the rib cage. Parts of the stomach and the kidneys are also protected by the **rib cage**.

The two almost horizontal bones over the top of the chest are called **clavicles** or **collarbones**. These can be easily felt by touching since they are not covered with muscle but only with skin.

Each human arm is made up of three long bones joined at the elbow and many small bones that make up the palm and fingers. The upper arm has a single bone called the **humerus**, which extends from the shoulder to the elbow. The lower arm has two bones—the **radius** and the **ulna**.

In the same way, each human leg is made up of three long bones and many smaller bones that make up the foot. The upper part of the leg, from the hip to the knee, is made up off a single thick bone called the **femur** while the lower part of the leg has two bones—the **tibia** and **fibula**. The femur or the thigh bone is the longest bone in the human body.

Humans do not have tails, but at the lower end of the backbone there is a tiny pointed region known as the **coccyx**, which is believed to be the residual part of an undeveloped tail.

The lower end of the backbone is attached to the **pelvis** or hip bones that support the legs in humans.

