

Whose Bones? Guessing Game

Discover the diversity of animal bones with a guessing game!

Materials Needed:

Printable Whose Bones? cards, Whose Bones? answer key, scissors. *Optional:* cardstock or thin cardboard, glue.

Prepare Your Cards: Print the game cards. To make them sturdier, glue on cardstock or thin cardboard. Cut out the cards (24 total) along the solid lines.



How To Play:

Pick a card with a picture of a bone. Look at it closely: how big is it? * What shapes do you see? Have you seen other bones that look like this one? Look at the animal cards, and pick the animal who you think that bone belongs to.

*Use the black-and-white ruler in each picture for scale.

Repeat with each bone card, matching it to an animal card. Note: Two of the animals do not have bones!

When you have matched all twelve pairs, look at the answer key to check your guesses. Did any of the answers surprise you? Which bones were easy to guess? Which bones were more difficult?

To adapt the game for younger children, use fewer pairs. Choose bones that look the most different from each other, or with easily identifiable features.

Bones and Animal Adaptations

Bones are different shapes and sizes, adapted to suit the needs of the animal they belong to. For example, fish have flexible spines, adapted for swimming. Birds have hollow bones, which make it easier to fly. Scientists study animal bones to find out how the animal looks, what it eats, how it moves, and more!



Bat skeleton, adapted for flying.

Whose Bones? Guessing Game Cards



Whose Bones? Guessing Game Cards



No Bones!



No Bones!



Whose Bones? Guessing Game Cards



Whale



Moose



American Robin



Lynx



Hadrosaur



Vole

Note: Animal images are not to scale.

Image credits: Whale, Moose, American Robin, Lynx: Wikimedia Commons. Hadrosaur: Arctic Hadrosaurs by James Havens. Vole: Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

Whose Bones? Guessing Game Cards



Salmon



Bat



Octopus



Steppe Bison



Caribou



Snail

Note: Animal images are not to scale.

Image credits: Salmon, Bat, Caribou: Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Steppe Bison: UAMN photo. Octopus, Snail: Wikimedia Commons.

Whose Bones? Answer Key



Whale vertebra



Moose jaw



American Robin skull



Lynx skull



Piece of Hadrosaur femur



Vole bones (various)



Salmon vertebrae



Bat skeleton

No Bones!



Octopus or Snail



Steppe Bison vertebra



Caribou skull

No Bones!



Octopus or Snail