

INVERTEBRATES: ANIMALS WITHOUT BACKBONES

Most Animals are Invertebrates!

Animals are classified into groups so that scientists around the world can study them easier. Scientists **classify** animals into two major groups, **vertebrates and invertebrates**.

Invertebrates are animals that do not have a backbone. Many invertebrates do **not** have hard body parts either, though some do.



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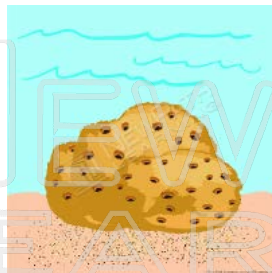
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Spon

Sponges are invertebrates that are simple organisms. Sponges live **attached** to a fixed location in the water. Most sponges live in salt water. Sponges have holes, called **pores**, which allow water to flow through them. They get their food from the water that flows through them.



Lesson Checkpoint:
Where do most sponges live?

Cnidarians

Cnidarians include hydra, jelly fish, and sea anemones. Cnidarians have several things they have in common with each other. One characteristic they have in common is that they all have stinging cells. Cnidarians include **hydra**, which are organisms that live in freshwater. **Cnidarians** also include jellyfish. **Jellyfish** have soft bodies and long stinging tentacles that are poisonous.



Sea anemones live in the sea.

They live in



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What

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Worms

Worms are also invertebrates. Worms have segmented bodies, which means they have bodies that are divided into sections. An example of a **flatworm** is a **tapeworm**, which is a type of worm that lives off another living thing. **Leeches** are also classified as invertebrates and have segmented bodies.



Lesson Checkpoint:
How does a tapeworm live?

Mollusks

Snail and clams are types of mollusks. **Mollusks** have soft bodies and most mollusks have shells.

Mollusks, like a snail, move by using a structure called a **foot**. This foot produces **slime** that helps the snail move easier along the ground.



Lesson Checkpoint:

What is an example of a mollusk?

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Lesson Checkpoint:

Where does an echinoderm live?



Arthropods

Arthropods are the largest animal phylum. Two characteristics of arthropods are that they have segmented bodies and jointed legs.



Spiders

Spiders are NOT **insects**. Spiders only have two main body parts and eight legs. Insects have six legs. Insects and spiders are both arthropods.



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Crust

Speaking of having a hard outside, **crustaceans** are invertebrates and include **crabs and lobsters**, which have hard external shells.



Lesson Checkpoint:
Are spiders insects? Why or why not?

Coral Reefs

Coral reefs are a mass or ridge of living coral that need sunshine and warm waters to survive. Coral reefs live in warm, shallow sea waters. Coral reefs provide a **protective place to live** for a large variety of marine life.

*Lesson Checkpoint:
What do coral reefs provide?*

An illustration showing a row of diverse children standing on a green patch of grass. Above each child is a thought bubble containing various educational icons: a cube, a microscope, a protractor, a globe, a chemistry flask, a globe, a compass, an atom symbol, a pie chart, a bar graph, a calculator, and a pencil. The word 'ABC' is written on a small book icon in the middle thought bubble.

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