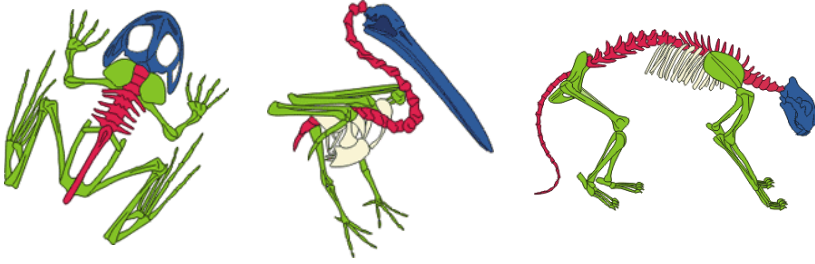


# THE VERTEBRATE SKELETON

It's a simple fact, most animals move. Animals can move because their body is supported by an internal skeleton. All vertebrate animals have internal skeletons. Although they look quite different at first glance, they share some basic characteristics.

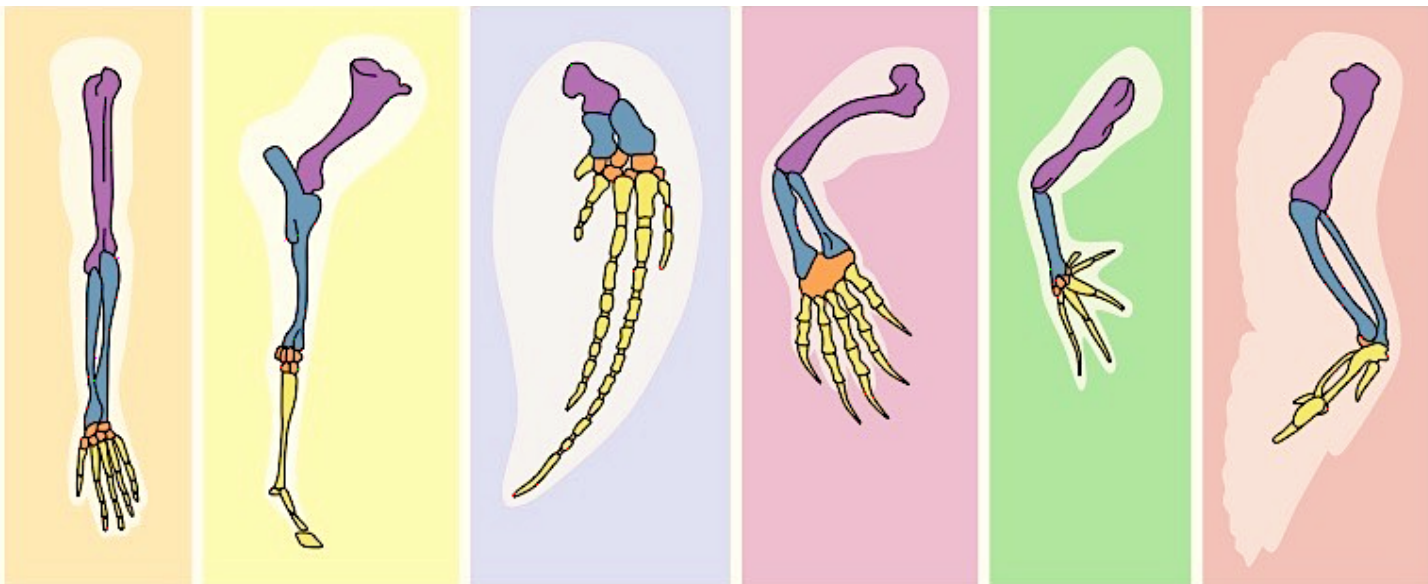


In these diagrams, the skull is colored blue, the leg bones are colored green, and the spine is colored red.

Why do animals have skulls? \_\_\_\_\_

What other bones protect an animal's insides? \_\_\_\_\_

**Each of these arm bones belong to a different animal. But which animal? Write your guess next to each bone.**



## HINTS

- Horse hands look like just one bone and their hooves (fingers) are adapted for galloping.
- Bird wings are very lightweight and adapted for flying.
- The frog uses its arms to prop itself up and to aim when jumping, they only have 4 fingers.
- Human hands are adapted to use many different tools because they can grasp.
- Fish fins are adapted for swimming. They have long spread out fingers to give more propulsion in the water.
- Turtle arms are used to pull the turtle forward and they have long finger bones for digging.