

Science

Vertebrates and Invertebrates (Notes)

- Animals **without backbones** are called invertebrates.
- Jellyfish, spider, insects, starfish, sponges, worms, crabs, octopus, crawfish, and centipedes are all examples of invertebrates.
- Invertebrates live almost everywhere on Earth and make up 97% of all the animals.
- Most invertebrates have **exoskeletons**, which is a hard outer covering that protects an animal's body and gives it support.
- Some invertebrate groups are **mollusks (octopus, conch, oyster), insects, spiders, sponges, and worms.**
- **Insects and spiders** are invertebrates that belong to the group called **arthropods.**
- **Insects** have three body segments:
 - **head**
 - **thorax**
 - **abdomen**
 - **Insects also have six legs.**
- **Spiders** have two body segments:
 - **head**
 - **abdomen**
 - **Spiders also have eight legs.**
- Vertebrates are **animals that have a backbone inside their body.**
- The major groups of vertebrates include:
 - Fish
 - Birds
 - Reptiles
 - Amphibians
 - Mammals