

## Reading Exercise

### Classifying Invertebrates

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Scientists put all animals into two large groups—animals with backbones and animals without backbones. You may think a backbone is pretty common. After all, you have a backbone. However, less than 5 percent of all known animal species have backbones. Animals without a backbone are called **invertebrates**.



There are several different groups of invertebrates and they can be found almost everywhere on Earth.

I Read this fragment of the text, then complete the following paragraph using the information you just read.

Scientists divided animals into two big groups. Animals with (1) \_\_\_\_\_ and (2) \_\_\_\_\_ backbones. Although humans have them, we only are part of a little number with this body part, as less than (3) \_\_\_\_\_ percent of all known animal species have backbones. Animals that don't have a backbone are known as (4) \_\_\_\_\_. We can find them all around the (5) \_\_\_\_\_.

II. Read from page 20 (starting with Sponges) up to page 26. Match the groups of invertebrates with their correct descriptions.

Arachnids

Sea stars

Snails/octopuses

Sponges

Jellies

Insects

Anemone

Corals

Worms

Arthropods

Crustaceans

- I. \_\_\_\_\_ They have stinging tentacles which they use to get food. They live in colonies of thousands and they produce a hard skeleton around their soft bodies.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Lobsters, crabs, and shrimp are part of this group. They've got five pairs of legs and some have claws. Most live in the water and breathe through gills.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ These creatures have legs with moving parts called joints. They have an outer covering that protects their parts inside, called an exoskeleton.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ They've got some cells that keep water flowing through them. They are simple creatures with no stomachs or organs. Their cells take in the food and oxygen.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Its tentacles face upward. It usually waits on a rock for something that comes along to eat it. It can creep.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Spiders and scorpions belong to this group. They're not insects.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ These two are related. They've got soft bodies, but with a muscular foot. Both have shells, but one carries it on its back whereas the other has it inside.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ They can be flat, round or made of smaller sections. They can be colorful and live on land or in the water. They can even live inside other animals.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ They sting, they haven't got bones, a heart, or a brain. Their tentacles hang down around its mouth.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ They got spines and arms that grow from the center. They've got suction cups to stay attached to rocks.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ They've got exoskeletons, six legs and three main body parts. Most have wings, antennae, and compound eyes. Scientists classify them according to their life cycles.