

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.