



Vertebrates and Invertebrates Animals Compare and Contrast



Directions: Read the two informational texts, complete the graphic organizer.

Many different animals share our planet with us. Many are alike, and many are different. Scientists classify animals based on their similarities. One way scientists group animals is whether or not those animals have a backbone.

Vertebrates Animals

Vertebrates that have a unique backbone fit into the category of vertebrates. They make up a small part of the animal kingdom. Some animals, like dogs, cats, birds, lizards, fish, and humans have backbones. These are examples of vertebrates. These animals have a skeleton inside their bodies that is made of bone. Their brain is covered by a skull. These animals are usually big in size. They are usually able to move fast. Vertebrates live in a variety of habitats. Their bodies allow them to adapt to different environments.

Invertebrates Animals

Most of the animal kingdom fits into the category of invertebrates. These are the animals that do not have a backbone. Animals, such as squid, worms, bugs, and clams do not have backbones. These are examples of invertebrates. Invertebrates are usually smaller and slow-moving. Without bones, their bodies are not as strong. They do not move as easily. Invertebrates live in a variety of habitats. They can be found anywhere from caves and deserts to forests and oceans.

Instructions: Drag the sentences and put them in the correct columns.

- Smaller in size
- Have a backbone
- Smaller part of the animal kingdom
- Have a skeleton inside their bodies
- Live in a variety of habitats
- Move fast
- Slow moving
- Do not have a backbone
- Part of the animal kingdom
- Larger part of the animal kingdom
- Bigger in size
- Do not have a skeleton inside their bodies

Vertebrates	Both	Invertebrates