

Invertebrates

All vertebrates have one thing in common, a **backbone**. Vertebrate groups include fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds. Animals without a backbone are called invertebrates.

Most invertebrates have **exoskeletons**. An exoskeleton is a hard outer covering that protects an animal's body and gives it support. Some invertebrate groups include insects, spiders, mollusks, sponges, spiny-skinned and worms.

Insects and Spiders

Insects and spiders are invertebrates that belong to the group called **arthropods**.

Insects have **three** body segments: head, thorax and abdomen, and six legs.

Spiders have **two** body segments: head, abdomen, and eight legs.

