

Chordate evolution and  
the three-phylum system

# Jigsaw Reading

Laura Salazar  
EET U. Central  
Zoología de Cordados



**Welcome to this reading activity! ✨**

**You will read four short texts about the article  
“Chordate evolution and the three-phylum system.”**

**Each text is followed by a multiple-choice question.**

**Your task is to:**

- 1. Read carefully to find the main idea.**
- 2. Choose the best answer for each question.**
- 3. Try to focus on the English words and sentences,  
not only the biology.**

**This activity will help you practice:**

- Reading for main ideas and details.**
- Understanding academic vocabulary in context.**
- Using English to talk about science.**

**Good luck and remember: read first, then choose your  
answer!**

## Section A – Introduction

Scientists used to think that Chordata was one phylum with three subphyla: Vertebrates, Tunicates, and Cephalochordates. But new studies show that tunicates are actually closer to vertebrates than to cephalochordates.

According to new studies, which two groups are more closely related?

- a) Vertebrates and Cephalochordates
- b) Vertebrates and Tunicates
- c) Cephalochordates and Tunicates
- d) Vertebrates and Ambulacraria

## Section B – Evolutionary Relationships

The three phyla of chordates share a common ancestor, but they split at different times. Cephalochordates were the first to diverge.

Which group was the first to diverge?

- a) Vertebrates
- b) Tunicates
- c) Cephalochordates
- d) Ambulacraria

## Section C – Comparison with Ambulacraria

**Chordates are closely related to Ambulacraria.**  
**Ambulacrarians have a “dipleurula-type” larva, while chordates have a “tadpole-type” larva.**

**What is the main difference between chordate and ambulacrarian larvae?**

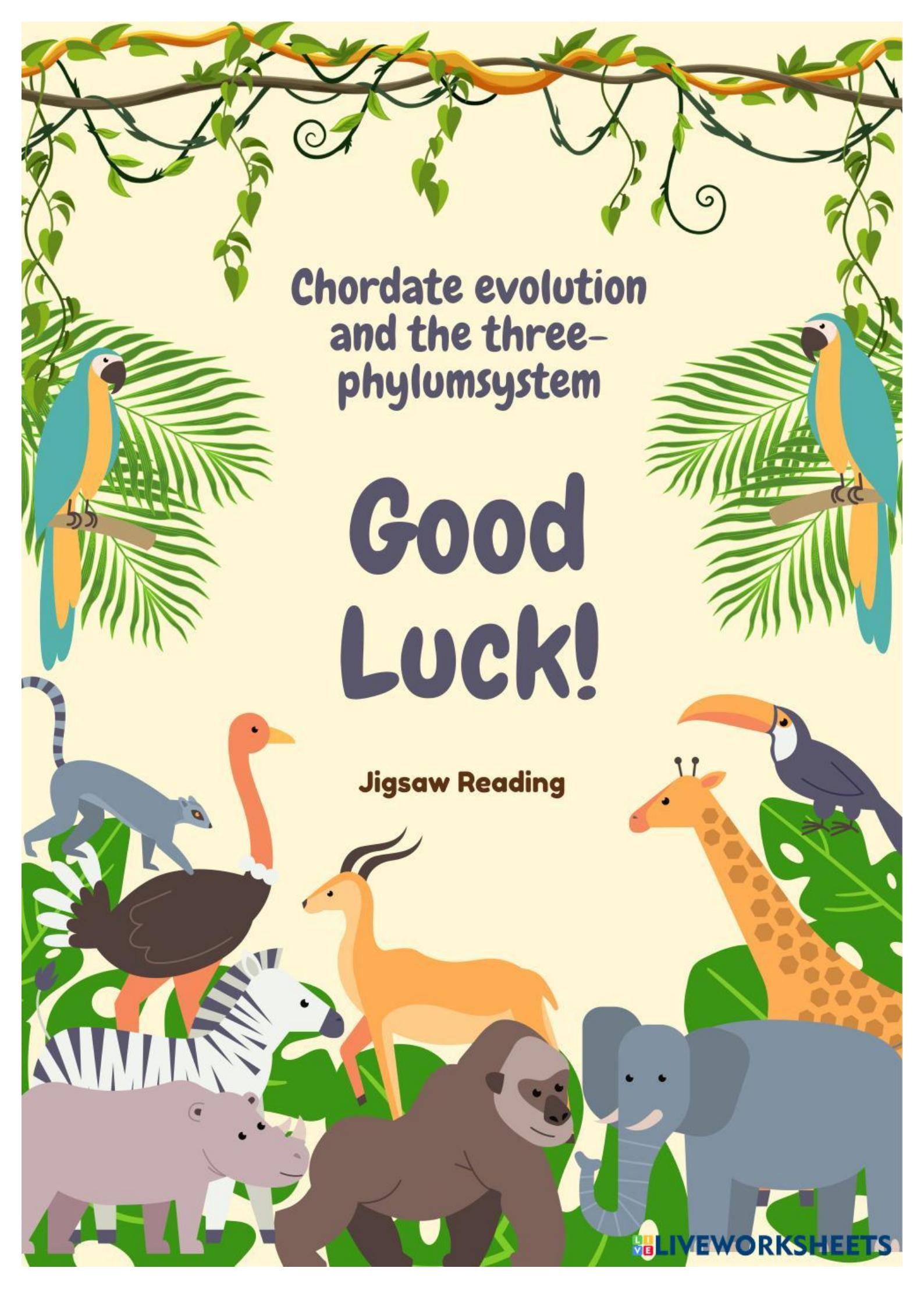
- a) Ambulacrarians have a notochord**
- b) Chordates have a dipleurula-type larva**
- c) Chordates have a tadpole-type larva**
- d) Ambulacrarians have a dorsal nerve cord**

## Section D – Conclusion

**The authors suggest each group (Vertebrates, Tunicates, Cephalochordates) should be recognized as a separate phylum. Together, they form a superphylum.**

**What new classification do the authors suggest?**

- a) Keep three subphyla**
- b) One single phylum**
- c) Three separate phyla under a superphylum**
- d) Merge with Ambulacraria**



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# Good LUCK!

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