

Vertebrates and Invertebrates

Objective: Students will gain an understanding of the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates.

Materials:	Oyster	Shrimp
	Fish	Knife
	2 poster boards	Glue
	Magazines	Scissors

Activity:

- Initiate** - Discuss the two new names – vertebrate and invertebrate. Have the students feel their own backbones and each other’s backbones. Ask students for examples of animals they think would fit into each group.
- Develop** – Lay out the oyster, shrimp, and fish. Have the students guess whether these animals will be vertebrates or invertebrates. Fillet one side of the fish so that the backbone is exposed. Peel and cut open the shrimp. Have students feel each animal and tell you if they feel a backbone or not. Does the fish’s backbone feel like their own? Was it in the same place as their backbone?
- Culminate** - Have the students make two poster collages, one for vertebrates and the other for invertebrates. They can be made from pictures the students have drawn themselves or pictures collected from magazines. Picture gathering can be an assignment carried out at home with the help of parents.
- Evaluation** - Informal teacher observation. Did the students appear to grasp the new concept? Were the pictures collected representative of vertebrates and invertebrates?