



We Need Bones

Part 1

Teacher Reads The human skeleton, our body's bones, has many jobs, or functions. Without bones, our bodies would have no shape.

Why are there bones in the **body**? Bones set up the
11 body's shape. They help the body stay upright and help
21 it do things such as run and jump. Bones keep things
32 safe inside the body.

36 As you grow, bones grow. An infant begins life with
46 close to 300 bones. But an **adult** has just 206 bones.
57 What happens? As an infant grows, so do its bones.
67 Some of the bones combine with bones right next to
77 them. That's why an adult ends up with 206 bones.

Part 2

Teacher Reads Each bone, or group of bones, has a specific job, or function in the body. Read on to learn more about why three groups of bones are important: the skull, the spine, and the ribs.

87 The skull is a set of 22 bones on the **head**. The top
100 of the skull keeps the brain safe. Just below the top of
112 the skull, some bones make a frame. That frame shapes
122 things like the cheeks and the chin.

129 The spine is the backbone. It is a line of little bones
141 with holes. The bones are like beads on a string.
151 The spine runs from the top of the neck down to the
163 tailbone. It helps keep the body up and helps with
173 twisting and bending.



Part 2 continued

176 Inside the chest, there are 12 sets of ribs. The ribs
187 link to the spine in the back. They act like a box to keep
201 things safe inside, such as the lungs.

Part 3

Teacher Reads Maybe you have had a broken bone or know someone who has. Breaking a bone can be painful. The good news is that the bone can heal.

208 Bones are very strong, but they can snap or crack.
218 Setting a bone in a cast after the bone broke lets the bone
231 have time to heal. The cast **protects** the bone and keeps
242 it still. It can take 6 to 8 weeks to heal the bone.

255 Bones do lots of jobs. They help the body work right.

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