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Introduction

Each book in the *Power Practice*[™] series contains dozens of ready-to-use activity pages to provide students with skill practice. Use the fun activities to supplement and enhance what you are already teaching in your classroom. Give an activity page to students as independent class work, or send the pages home as homework to reinforce skills taught in class. An answer key is provided for quick reference.

Nonfiction reading is different than reading fiction or reading for pleasure. Students read nonfiction books and articles to find information, learn about new ideas and subjects, or find out more about a topic that interests them. The text features of nonfiction reading materials are different from the features of fiction, and the associated comprehension skills are also different. *Nonfiction Reading Comprehension 3-4* gives students practice with topics that are appropriate for their grade level. Students use the features particular to nonfiction as they read and comprehend the selections. The controlled vocabulary and reading level of the passages allows them to focus on the accompanying skills pages.

Nonfiction Reading Comprehension 3-4 is a collection of units featuring a nonfiction passage with accompanying vocabulary, comprehension, reading strategy, and word study exercises. These reproducibles give students practice in a focus skill that is based on a nonfiction selection. Each mini-unit provides practice of skills in a format they may encounter in a standardized-testing situation.

Use these ready-to-go activities to “recharge” skill review and give students the power to succeed!

Your Skeleton

Most of your body is squishy and soft. Not your bones! Bones are very hard. Bones give your body shape. They help keep you standing up tall. Bones also protect the soft organs on the inside. All of your bones together make up your skeleton.

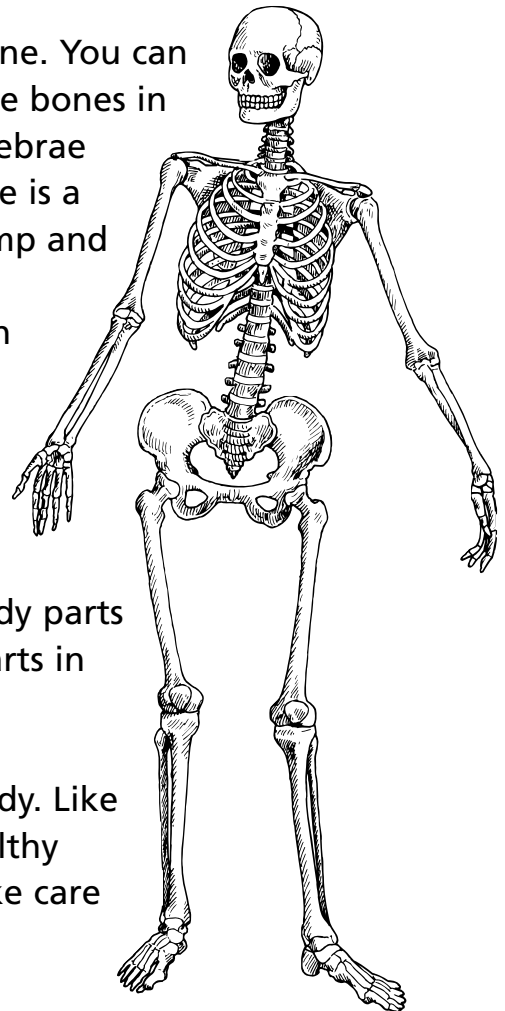
Bones come in many shapes and sizes. The biggest bone in your body is in your leg. It is your thighbone. The thighbone is also called the femur. The smallest bone in your body is in your ear. It is a tiny little bone called the stirrup. It transfers vibrations from your eardrum to the inner ear.

The bones of your head make up your skull. The skull surrounds the most important organ in your body, the brain. The skull protects the brain from knocks and bumps. The cranium is the top part of the skull. Eight bones fit tightly together to form the cranium. It acts like a helmet around your brain.

Down the center of your back is your backbone. You can feel bumps just under the skin. These bumps are the bones in your backbone. They are called vertebrae. The vertebrae are stacked on top of each other. Between each one is a pad of cartilage that cushions your spine as you jump and move. Your backbone is special. It lets you bend forward, backward, and side to side. It can swivel in both directions.

Joints connect bones to each other. Joints allow you to move those rigid bones. Your elbows and knees are joints. Your ankles and wrists are joints. Some joints only allow you to move your body parts in one direction. Other joints let you move body parts in many directions.

Bones are living and growing parts of the body. Like the rest of your body, bones need exercise and healthy food. Take good care of your bones so they can take care of you.



Define Vocabulary

These words are found in the passage "Your Skeleton." Match each word from the word box to its definition.

skeleton	organs	femur	cranium	vertebrae
joints	rigid	direction	cartilage	cushions

- 1 _____ Cartilage does this. It lessens the force between your bones.
- 2 _____ This word describes your bones. It means that they are stiff.
- 3 _____ This is the name for the top part of your skull. It acts like a helmet for your brain.
- 4 _____ This word describes the way in which joints allow your bones to move. Some can only move one way. Others can move many ways.
- 5 _____ These connect bones to each other. They allow us to move.
- 6 _____ This is what we call all of the bones in your body.
- 7 _____ These are soft things inside your body. They do special jobs. Your bones protect some of them.
- 8 _____ This is the largest bone in your body.
- 9 _____ These bones make up your backbone. They help you stand up tall.
- 10 _____ A pad of this material is found between your vertebrae. It helps cushion your bones.

Recall Information

Recall what you learned in "Your Skeleton." Circle the letter next to the answer that best completes the sentence.

- 1 Bones are not
 - a. rigid.
 - b. squishy.
 - c. living.
 - d. growing.

- 2 Bones are connected together by
 - a. skulls.
 - b. joints.
 - c. bumps.
 - d. healthy food.

- 3 The skull protects the most important organ, your
 - a. brain.
 - b. heart.
 - c. liver.
 - d. bones.

- 4 You should take care of your bones so they
 - a. disappear.
 - b. stay soft and ripe.
 - c. do not leak water.
 - d. stay healthy and strong.

- 5 The stirrup is
 - a. the smallest bone in your body.
 - b. the largest bone in your body.
 - c. the softest bone in your body.
 - d. something that helps you move.

- 6 Elbows, knees, ankles, and wrists are examples of
 - a. people.
 - b. organs.
 - c. joints.
 - d. directions.

- 7 Joints help us
 - a. sweat.
 - b. think.
 - c. sleep.
 - d. move.

- 8 Bones need
 - a. exercise.
 - b. healthy food.
 - c. good care.
 - d. all of these.

Identify Main Idea and Details

The **main idea** states the most important idea of a paragraph or passage. **Supporting details** are small pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Write the sentence choice that forms the main idea for each paragraph.

1

_____.

The marrow is the center part of the bone and produces red blood cells. Spongy bone gives the bone strength without weight. Compact bone is hard and smooth. Each bone has a covering to which the muscles attach.

- a. Almost every bone is made of the same material.
- b. Parts of bones have silly names.
- c. Bones are made up of living cells.

2

_____.

Your ribs act like a cage around your chest. They protect your heart, lungs, and liver. Your skull is like a helmet. It protects your brain from injury.

- a. Some bones give our body support.
- b. The place where two bones meet is called a joint.
- c. Some bones shield the organs in the body.

3

_____.

The largest bone is the femur. It is the bone in your upper leg and supports your weight as you move. The smallest bone is the stirrup in your inner ear. It is less than an inch long.

- a. The smallest bones are found in the inner ear.
- b. Bones allow you to move.
- c. Bones come in different sizes.

4

_____.

Wear the proper equipment, like a helmet, kneepads, or wrist guards, while playing sports. Eat a healthy diet rich in calcium. Exercise so your bones stay strong.

- a. Bones can be injured during sports.
- b. Take care of your bones and they will take care of you.
- c. Bones can be broken and take a long time to heal.

Identify Nouns, Verbs, and Adjectives

<p>Nouns are words that name a person, place, thing, or idea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children • beach • volleyball • freedom 	<p>Verbs are words that describe action or states of being.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are • is running • swam • flies 	<p>Adjectives are words that describe nouns. They usually come before the noun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>silly</u> child • <u>twenty</u> bones <p>Adjectives follow the noun when a linking verb is used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher is <u>kind</u>. • Children are <u>happy</u>.
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Circle the correct letter to tell if the underlined word is a noun, a verb, or an adjective.

1 The femur is a very large bone.

- a. noun
- b. verb
- c. adjective

2 Your spine holds your body upright.

- a. noun
- b. verb
- c. adjective

3 Your spine twists this way and that.

- a. noun
- b. verb
- c. adjective

4 Bones in your feet help you stand and walk.

- a. noun
- b. verb
- c. adjective

5 The sternum is a strong bone in the center of your chest.

- a. noun
- b. verb
- c. adjective

6 Your jawbone opens and closes to talk and chew food.

- a. noun
- b. verb
- c. adjective

7 The pelvis is a bowl-shaped structure that supports your backbone.

- a. noun
- b. verb
- c. adjective

8 The inner ear is made up of three bones.

- a. noun
- b. verb
- c. adjective

9 Adults have 206 bones.

- a. noun
- b. verb
- c. adjective

10 Your skeleton is both very strong and very light.

- a. noun
- b. verb
- c. adjective

Sounds All Around

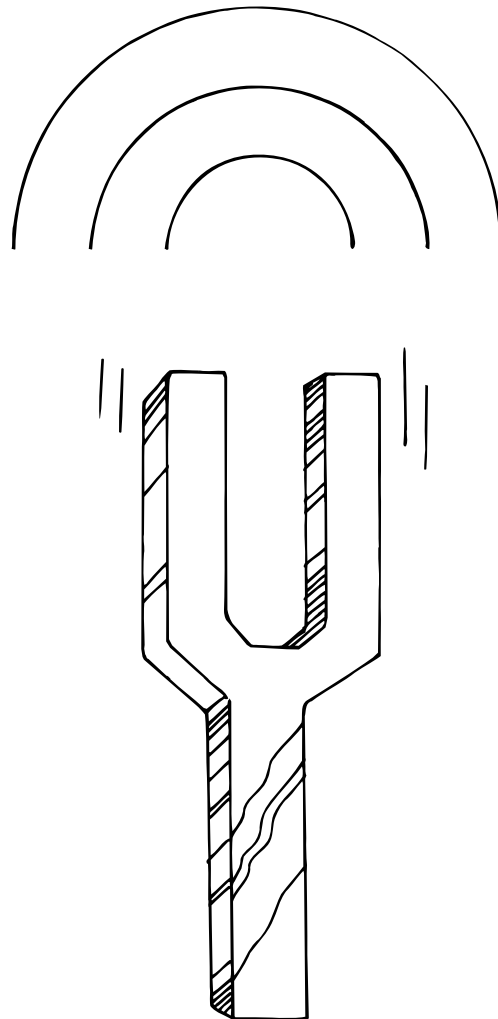
Sound is all around us. Some sounds are loud like a honking horn. Some sounds are soft like the buzz of a bee. Think of sounds you hear every day. What is sound?

Sound is caused by a back-and-forth movement called vibration. Hum a note and feel the tiny vibrations. As the vocal cords move back and forth, they make the air move back and forth. These vibrations travel through the air until they reach someone else's eardrum. The eardrum begins to move as the air vibrations hit it. The person hears a sound.

Sounds can be high or low. This is called pitch. A high-pitched sound moves really fast. A low-pitched sound moves very slowly. Sounds can also be loud or soft. This is called intensity. A big vibration makes a loud sound. A small vibration makes a soft sound.

Sound moves in waves. Think about what happens when a pebble is dropped into a pool of water. Waves move out from the center. Sound travels in the same way. Sound moves out from a vibrating object in all directions. The farther the sound travels, the weaker the vibrations get.

Most sounds we hear move through the air. The air is a gas. Sounds can move through liquids and solids, too. In fact, sound waves move better through liquids than gases. They travel even better through solids than liquids. Tap a finger lightly on the surface of a table. Notice how loud the sound is. Now set your ear against the surface and tap the same way as before. The sound seems louder because the vibrations are moving through the solid table, instead of the air.



Solve a Vocabulary Puzzle

Use the vocabulary words from the passage "Sounds All Around" to complete the crossword puzzle.

vibration	pitch	intensity	gas
liquid	solid	wave	direction

Across

- 2. a state of matter that can expand to fill a container
- 4. the highness or lowness of a sound
- 6. a line or course along which something moves or travels
- 7. a motion that moves up and down or back and forth, passing energy from one point to another
- 8. the loudness or softness of a sound

Down

- 1. rapid movement back and forth
- 3. a state of matter that has a definite size and shape
- 5. a state of matter that flows easily and is hard to compress

