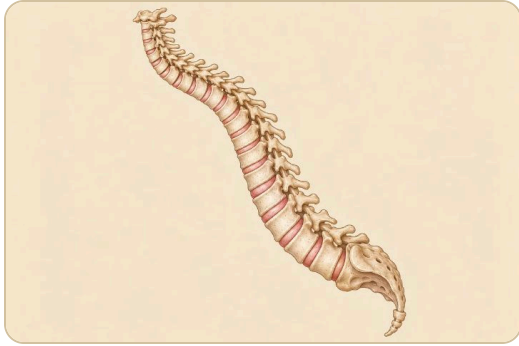


Name: _____

Date: _____

How many vertebrae are in the spine?



READ

The spine is made of 33 small stacked bones called vertebrae, with little cushions between them. It holds the body upright, lets you bend and protects the spinal cord, which runs inside it like a tunnel.

1 Which part is it? Use the words in the box.

Atlas and axis

Lumbar vertebrae

Thoracic vertebrae

1. The first two vertebrae. One lets you nod "yes" and the other lets you shake "no".
2. They sit in the middle of the back. The ribs attach to them.
3. The thickest vertebrae, in the lower back. They carry almost all of the body's weight.

2 Match each part to what it does. Write the letter.

☐ 1. Neck vertebrae

☐ 2. Intervertebral discs

☐ 3. Sacrum

☐ 4. Pelvis

A. Holding and moving the head

B. Supporting the spine

C. Linking the spine to the pelvis

D. Cushioning impacts

3 True or false? Write T or F.

- ☐ 1. **Atlas and axis:** letting the head nod and turn
- ☐ 2. **Thoracic vertebrae:** resting on the atlas
- ☐ 3. **Lumbar vertebrae:** bearing the body's weight
- ☐ 4. **Base of the skull:** holding the ribs

4 Think and answer

What is a herniated disc?



Spin it in 3D and read more
anatomytour.com/en/spine

Answer key: How many vertebrae are in the spine?

1 Which part is it?

1. Atlas and axis
2. Thoracic vertebrae
3. Lumbar vertebrae

2 Match each part to what it does.

1. A
2. D
3. C
4. B

3 True or false?

1. T
2. F (Thoracic vertebrae: holding the ribs)
3. T
4. F (Base of the skull: resting on the atlas)

4 Think and answer

It is when the soft center of a disc pushes out through the outer ring and presses on a nerve.

