Year 4 Science: Skeletons, shells and stems: how living things are held up

Name: _____ Date: _____

Try these without your notes first, then check the answer key.

Practice

1. A tuatara has a backbone. Is it a vertebrate or an invertebrate?

2. Which part of your skeleton protects your brain?

3. How many bones are in your forearm?

4. What kind of skeleton does a crab have?

5. Why does a jellyfish slump on the beach?

6. Why can a kauri grow much taller than a daisy?

Fix the mistake

7. Correct this statement: "Insects and spiders have backbones."

8. Correct this statement: "Muscles push bones to move them."

9. Correct this statement: "A wētā's skeleton grows with it, like ours."

Answer key (for parents and tutors)

1. A tuatara has a backbone. Is it a vertebrate or an invertebrate?
   A vertebrate.
2. Which part of your skeleton protects your brain?
   The skull.
3. How many bones are in your forearm?
   2 bones.
4. What kind of skeleton does a crab have?
   An exoskeleton.
5. Why does a jellyfish slump on the beach?
   There is no water to hold its soft body up.
6. Why can a kauri grow much taller than a daisy?
   Its trunk is made of stiff wood, which can hold up a tall plant.
7. Correct this statement: "Insects and spiders have backbones."
   Insects and spiders are invertebrates with no backbone; their support is an exoskeleton on the outside.
8. Correct this statement: "Muscles push bones to move them."
   Muscles can only pull, so they work in pairs: one pulls to bend a joint and the other pulls to straighten it.
9. Correct this statement: "A wētā's skeleton grows with it, like ours."
   An exoskeleton cannot grow, so a wētā moults: it sheds the old one and grows a bigger one.