

Name: _____



SHAPE OF LIFE: CHORDATA

1. Amphioxus is a simple invertebrate chordate. Describe what it looks like.

2. What are four structures that amphioxus has that it shares with us?



3. Adult humans do not have a notochord. What do we have in its place?

4. What are chordates that have a spine called? _____

5. What has enabled vertebrates, such as elephants and monkeys, to be larger and more dominant than simple chordates such as amphioxus?

6. Which new structure evolved in vertebrates that allowed them to switch from being microscopic plants (as amphioxus does) to eating larger food, including prey, in turn allowing them to grow larger?

7. What were the first animals to possess jaws made of bone, allowing them to dominate their ecosystems?

8. Which structure developed in fish to protect their fragile, growing brain tissue? _____

9. Which invertebrate chordate is a sessile filter feeder? _____

10. Describe the salp.

11. Which unique chordate forms a clear, cloudy looking mass around its body? _____

12. As fish developed more genes, what did their bodies adapt to be able to do? _____

13. Observe our first land ancestor as it moves from water to land. What does it look like?

14. The first land animals had similarities to monitor lizards. How did the first land chordates adapt to reproduction on land?

15. What are some features of snakes that allow them to capture and consume prey without limbs?



16. What were the largest chordates to ever walk the Earth? _____

17. When did an asteroid crash into Earth? What impact did this have on the animal life on Earth?

18. Which animals gained a stronghold after the dinosaurs died? Why were they now able to thrive?



19. Mammals are large and warm-blooded. What do they need to do to fuel their body?

20. Which group of chordates are humans most closely related to?

21. What are some similarities between humans and primates?



22. List 5 different chordates that were shown or featured throughout this video.

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The cover features a vibrant photograph of a green tree frog with red eyes and blue spots, sitting on a leaf.

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