

# YOUR SKELETON

An adult's skeleton is made up of 206 bones. Babies and children have even more – up to 300.

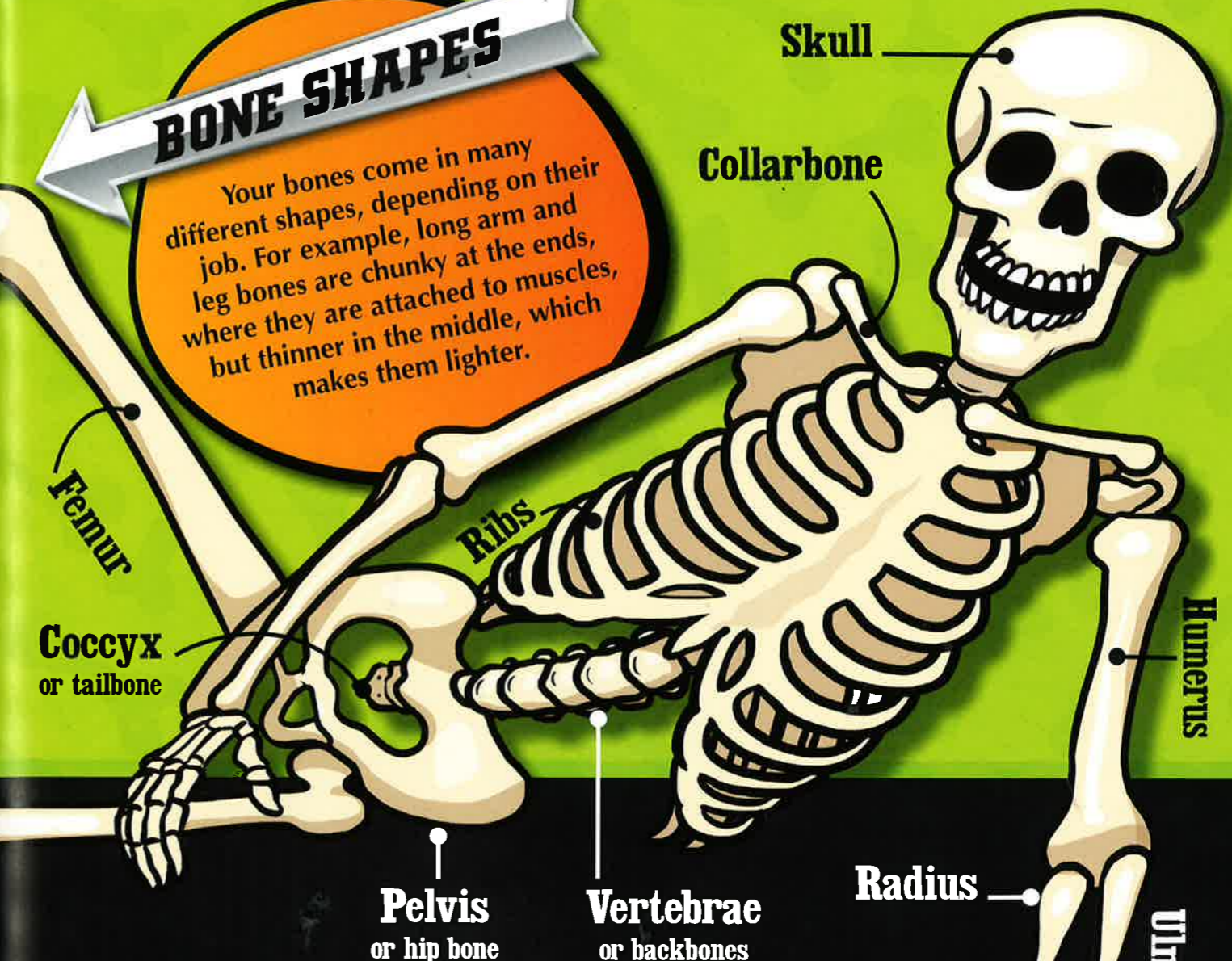
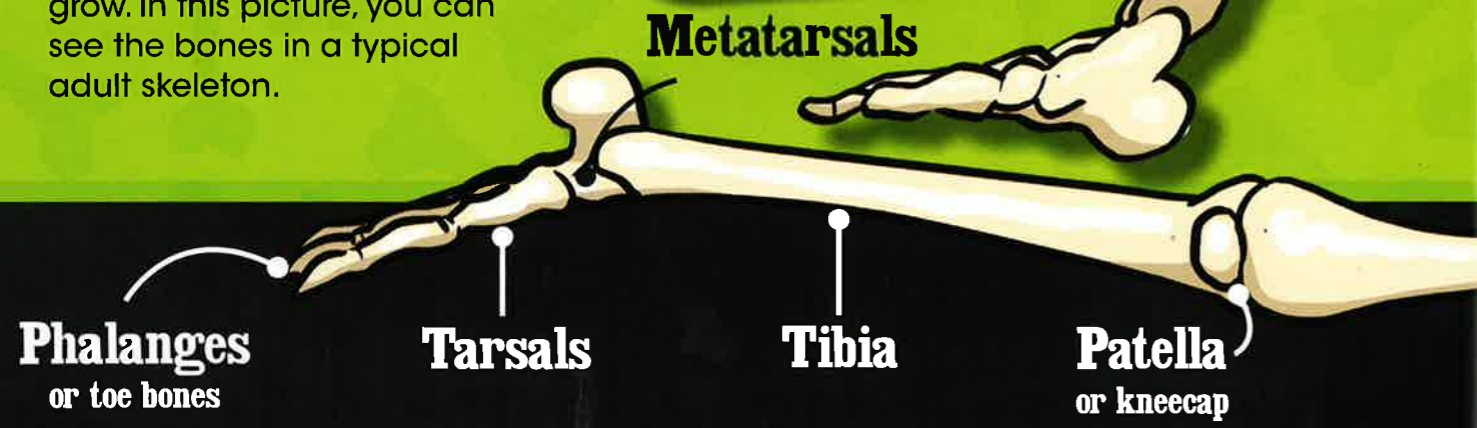
When you are born, your skull and pelvis are made up of many separate bones, which join or 'fuse' together as you grow. In this picture, you can see the bones in a typical adult skeleton.

## Why do bones have such strange names?

Most bones have Latin or Greek scientific names, based on what they look like. For example, the scientific name for the kneecap is 'patella', which is Latin for 'little pan'.

## BONE SHAPES

Your bones come in many different shapes, depending on their job. For example, long arm and leg bones are chunky at the ends, where they are attached to muscles, but thinner in the middle, which makes them lighter.



## BIG BONES AND TEENY BONES

The bones of the skeleton range from big, heavy ones such as those in the skull and the pelvis to the tiny bones in your toes, fingers and ears. The biggest bone in the body is the femur, or thighbone, which can be 60 cm long in a tall adult. The smallest is the stirrup bone, found inside the ear – it's smaller than a pea!

Stirrup bone



There are 26 bones in each foot.



There are 27 bones in each hand.



More than half of all the bones in your body are in your hands and feet.