

Launch Lab


15 minutes

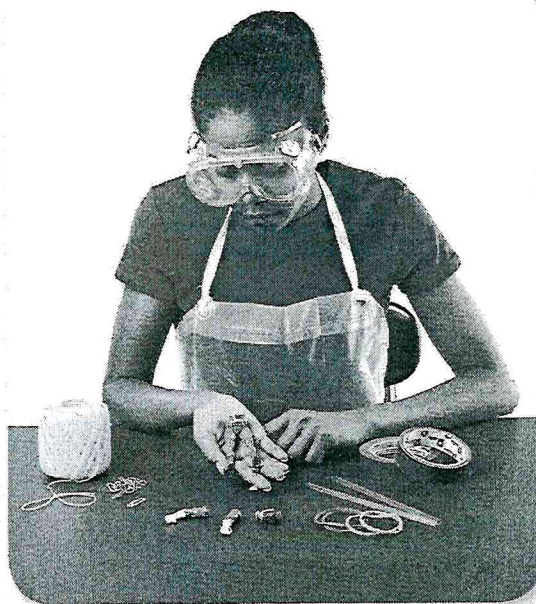
Why is the skeletal system so important?

Your skeletal system protects your body's organs, provides support, helps you move, and stores necessary minerals.

- 1 Read and complete a lab safety form.
- 2 Obtain one of the **disassembled human figures** and a **kit of materials**.
- 3 Use the materials to build a backbone for your figure. Using your backbone, connect the head and the arms to the legs of the figure.

Think About This

1. Which materials did you find helpful in creating a backbone and skeletal structure for your figure? Which were not helpful?
2. What characteristics of the "skeleton" were important as you built it? What problems would be caused by not having a skeleton?
3.  **Key Concept** Can you make your figure move? How does having a good support structure help it to move?



Structure and Movement

Have you ever had to open your mouth for a dental checkup as shown in the photo on the previous page? The human body can move in many different directions and perform a wide variety of tasks. It is able to do things that require many parts of the body to move, such as shooting a basketball into a hoop or swimming a lap in a pool. The human body also can remain very still, such as when posing for a picture or balancing on one leg.

In this lesson, you will read more about two organ systems—the skeletal system and the muscular system—that give the body structure, help the body move, and protect other organ systems.

The Skeletal System

The skeletal system has four major jobs. It protects internal organs, provides support, helps the body move, and stores minerals. The skeletal system is mostly bones. Adults have 206 bones. Ligaments, tendons, and cartilage are also parts of the skeletal system.

FOLDABLES®

Make two horizontal two-tab books. Label them as shown, and glue them side by side to form a booklet with four tabs. Glue this section to the back of the one you made in Lesson 1. Use your book to organize information about the body systems in this lesson.

