Practical activity ideas

Notes for the teacher - If your children need to review their learning, you can use these activities to support them.

Skeleton sketchers

The resources required for this activity include large sheets of black paper or several taped together, chalk and floor/table space.

Activity: On large sheets of black paper, ask the children to draw round a small person in white chalk and as a group discuss and draw where they think their bones are and what they might look like. Encourage them to feel their own bones to gain an idea of relative positions and sizes e.g. counting their ribs. Hang up the pictures and allow time for some discussion and comparison.

X-ray artist

The resources required for this activity include black paper, white chalk or oil pastels, X-ray images either on screen or real X-rays.

Activity: Children create X-ray art on black paper using white drawing media. They should focus on just one part of the body, for example the hand, and observe carefully in order to try to draw the bones as they appear in an X-ray. Real X-ray images would provide the best inspiration for this, but other skeletal images would work if zoomed in.

'What am I?' bones edition

The resources required for this activity include paper or card for the clue cards, pencils and access to the lesson slides for reference.

Activity: Each child should prepare a 'What am I?' clue card by writing a clue for a particular bone in the human skeleton but without naming it. The children can show what they know by making reference to the purpose of a bone in their clue, such as protection, support or movement. For example, "I protect your brain. You'll find me in your head. What am I?"

Once everyone has made a clue card, they can be put in a pile, shuffled, with one card drawn out and read to the children for them to guess which bone the clue is about. They could record their guesses on a mini-whiteboard and hold it up once everyone has an answer. The person who wrote the clue can confirm the correct answer. This is a useful activity for highlighting and addressing any misconceptions regarding specific bones.