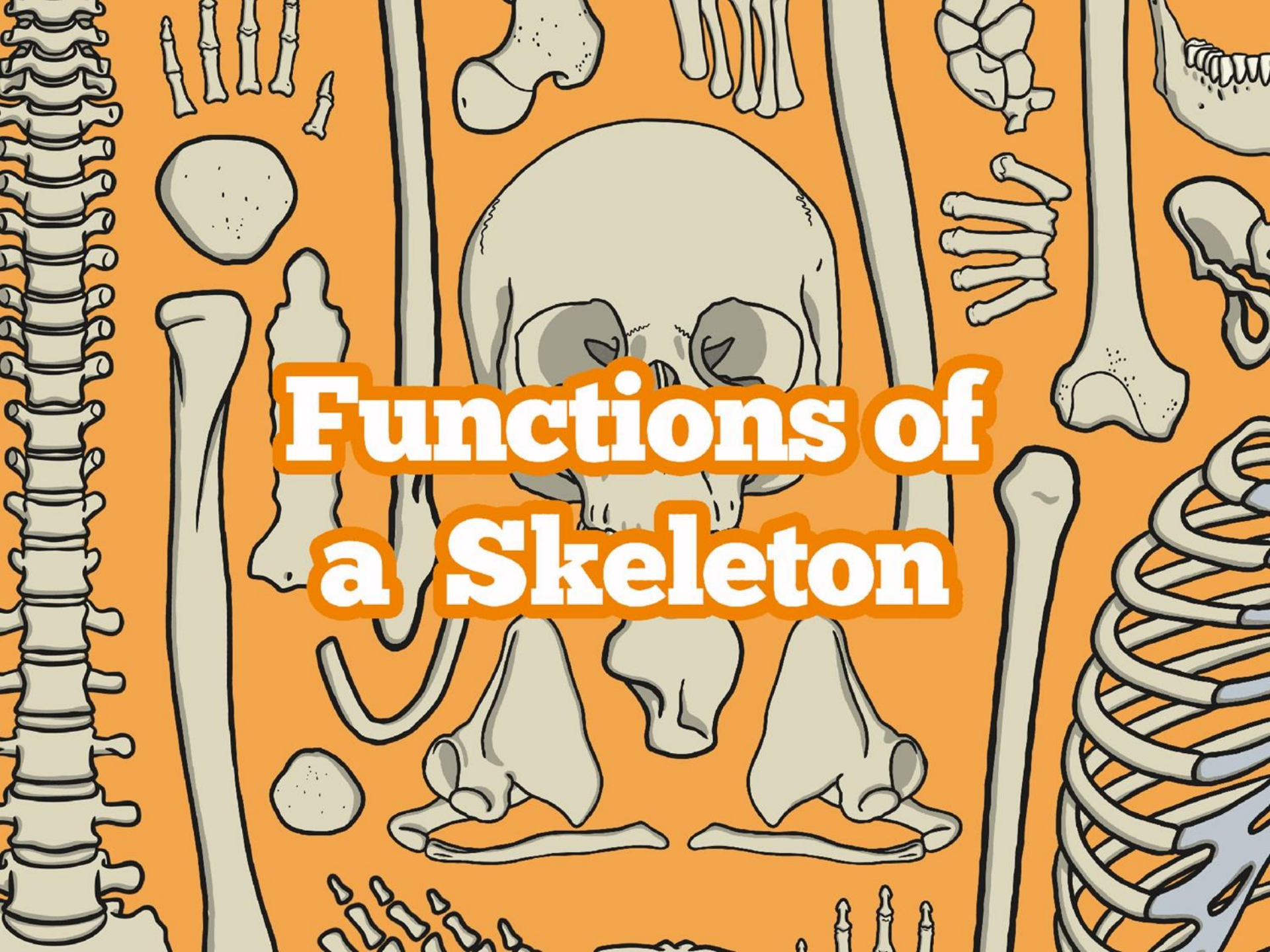
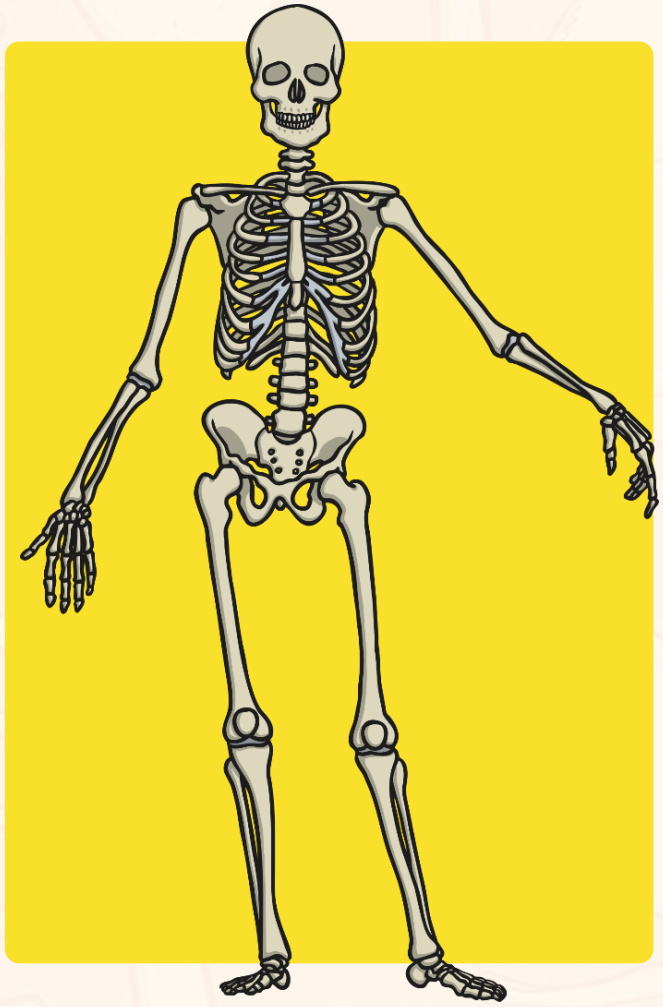

Functions of
a Skeleton

Function of a Skeleton



Discuss the following questions with a partner:

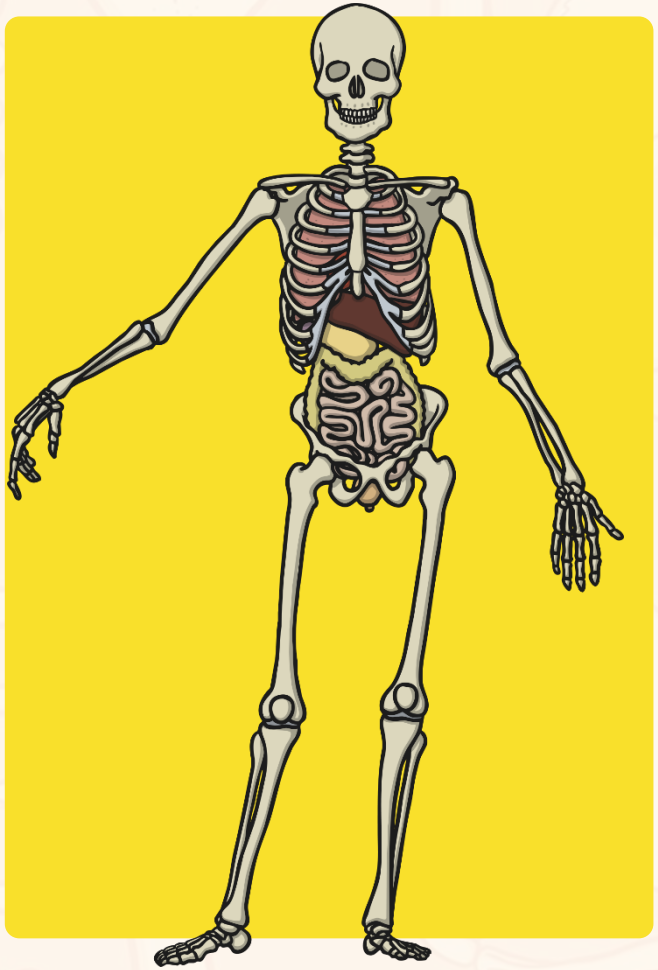
1

Why do we have skeletons?

2

What would happen if we did not have a skeleton?

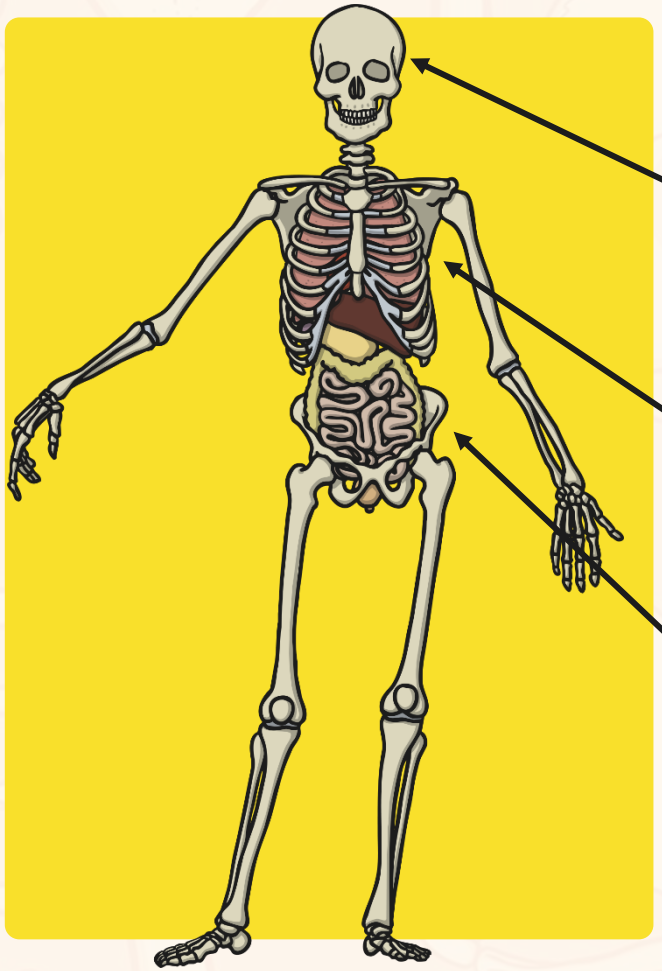
Function 1 → Protection



One of the functions of the skeleton, is to **protect** the important organs inside your body.

Which organs in your body, do you think need protecting?

Function 1 → Protection



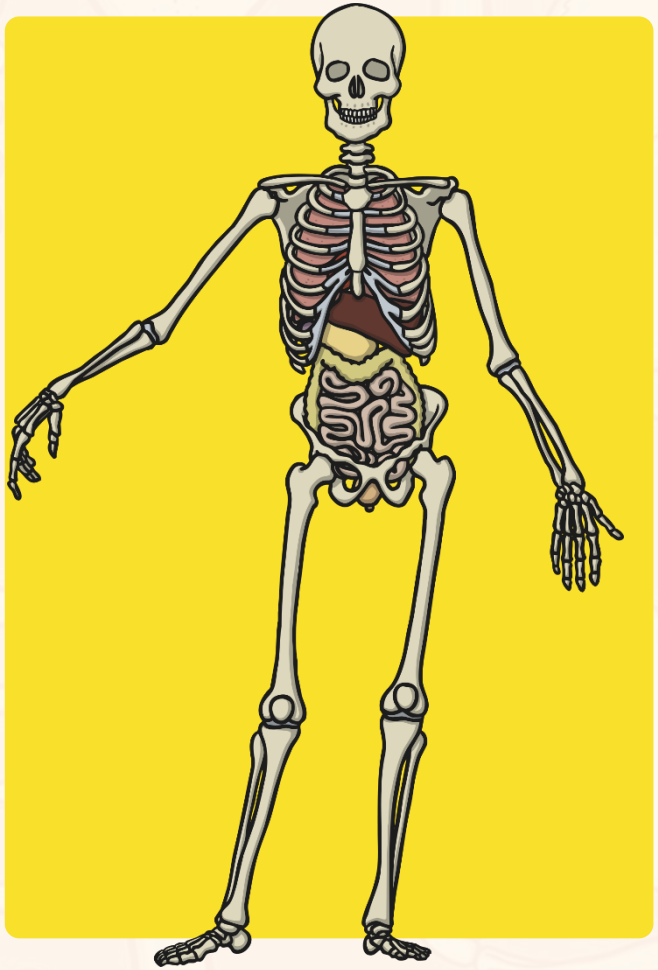
ANSWER:

The **skull** projects the brain.

The **rib cage** projects the heart and lungs.

The **pelvis** projects the bladder and part of the intestines.

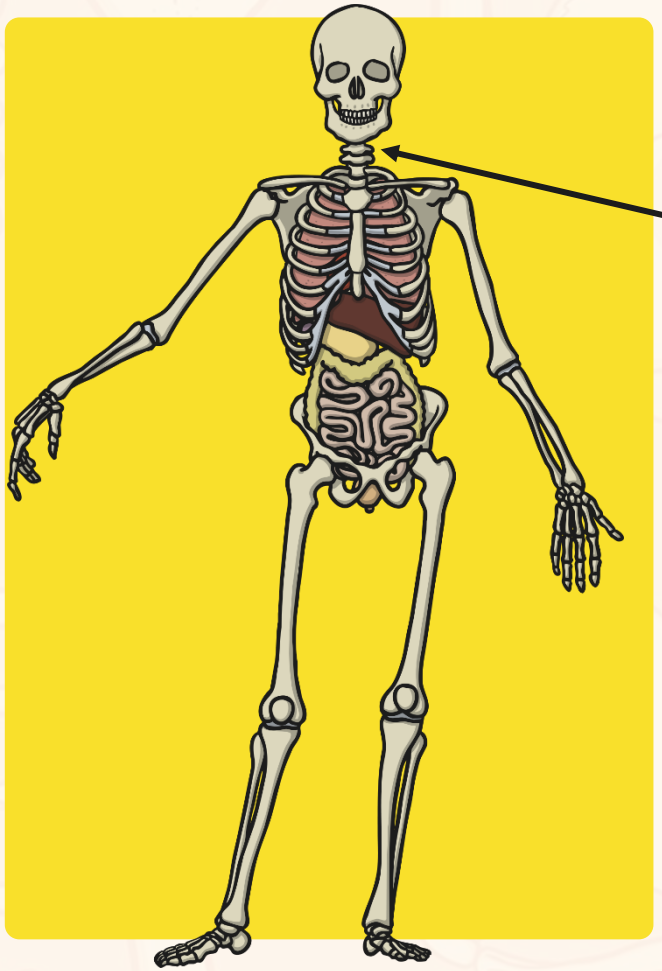
Function 2 → Support



Another function of the skeleton is to **support** your body.

Which part of the skeleton keeps your body upright?

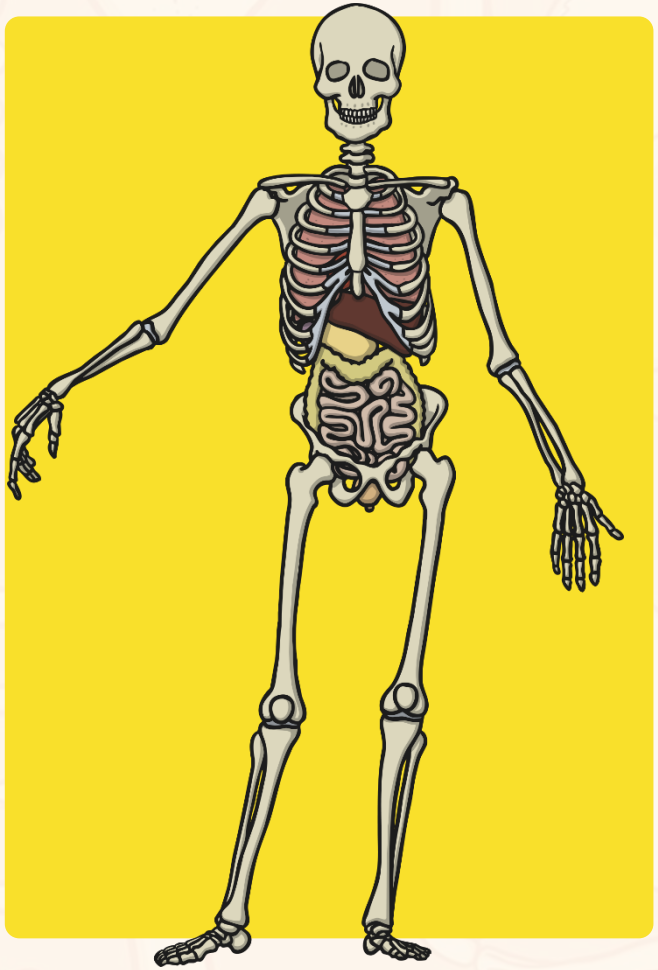
Function 2 → Support



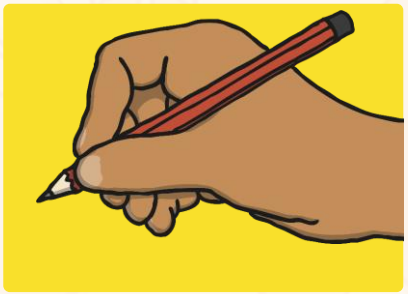
ANSWER:

Bones known as vertebrae make up your **spine** which keeps your body upright.

Function 3 → Movement

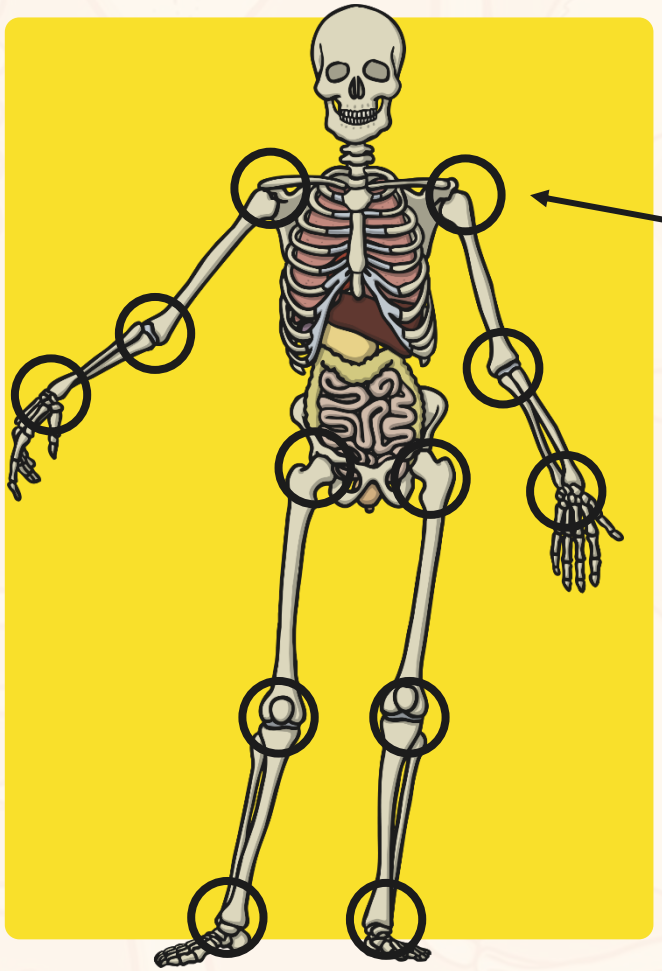


The last function of the skeleton is to provide **movement** in your body.



Try and pick up a pencil without bending your fingers.
What happens?

Function 3 → Movement



ANSWER:

Without **joints** connecting our bones we would not be able to move the way we do.

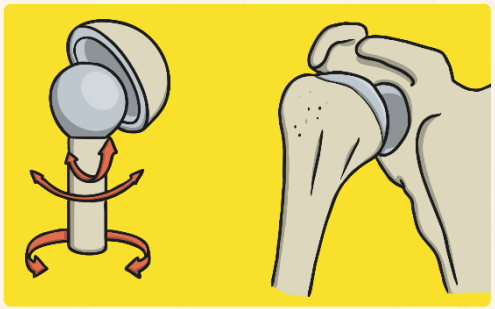
We would not be able to bend, jump, skip to name a few movements.

There are 3 different types of joints in the body.

Purpose 3 → Movement

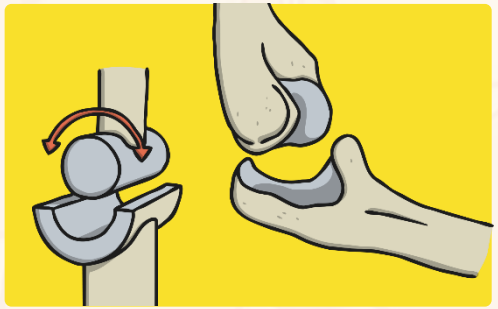
Different Kinds of Joints:

ball and socket



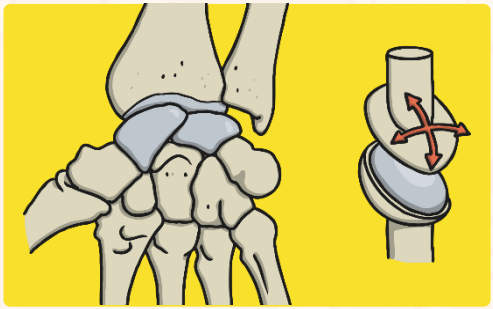
Ball and socket joints allow the most freedom of movement. One example in the human skeleton is the between the pelvis (hip) and femur (upper leg bone).

hinge



Hinge joints allow flex and extend movements. One example in the human skeleton is between the humerus (upper arm bone) and radius/ulna (lower arm bones).

gliding



Gliding joints are also known as 'plane' joints. The bones are shaped to glide over one another and allow for small limited movements in different directions. One example in the human skeleton is the wrist bones.