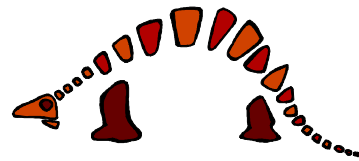


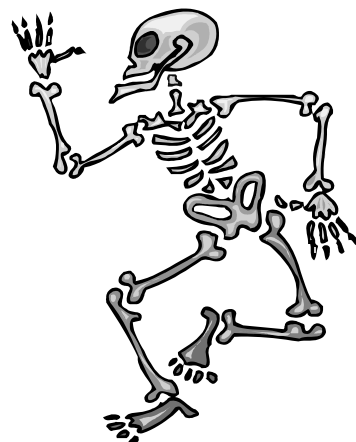
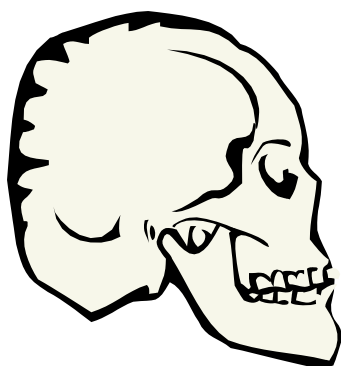
The [human skeleton](#) consists of 206 bones. We are actually born with more bones (about 300), but many fuse together as we grow up. These bones support your body and allow you to move. Bones contain a lot of **calcium** (an element found in milk, broccoli, and other foods). Bones manufacture blood cells and store important minerals.



The longest bone in our bodies is the **femur** (thigh bone). The smallest bone is the [stirrup bone inside the ear](#). Each hand has 26 bones in it. Your nose and ears are not made of bone; they are made of cartilage, a flexible substance that is not as hard as bone.

**Joints:** Bones are connected to other bones at joints. There are many different types of joints, including: fixed joints (such as in the skull, which consists of many bones), hinged joints (such as in the fingers and toes), and ball-and-socket joints (such as the shoulders and hips).

**Differences in males and females:** Males and females have slightly different skeletons, including a different elbow angle. Males have slightly thicker and longer legs and arms.



# The Human Skeleton

What do you know about the human skeleton?

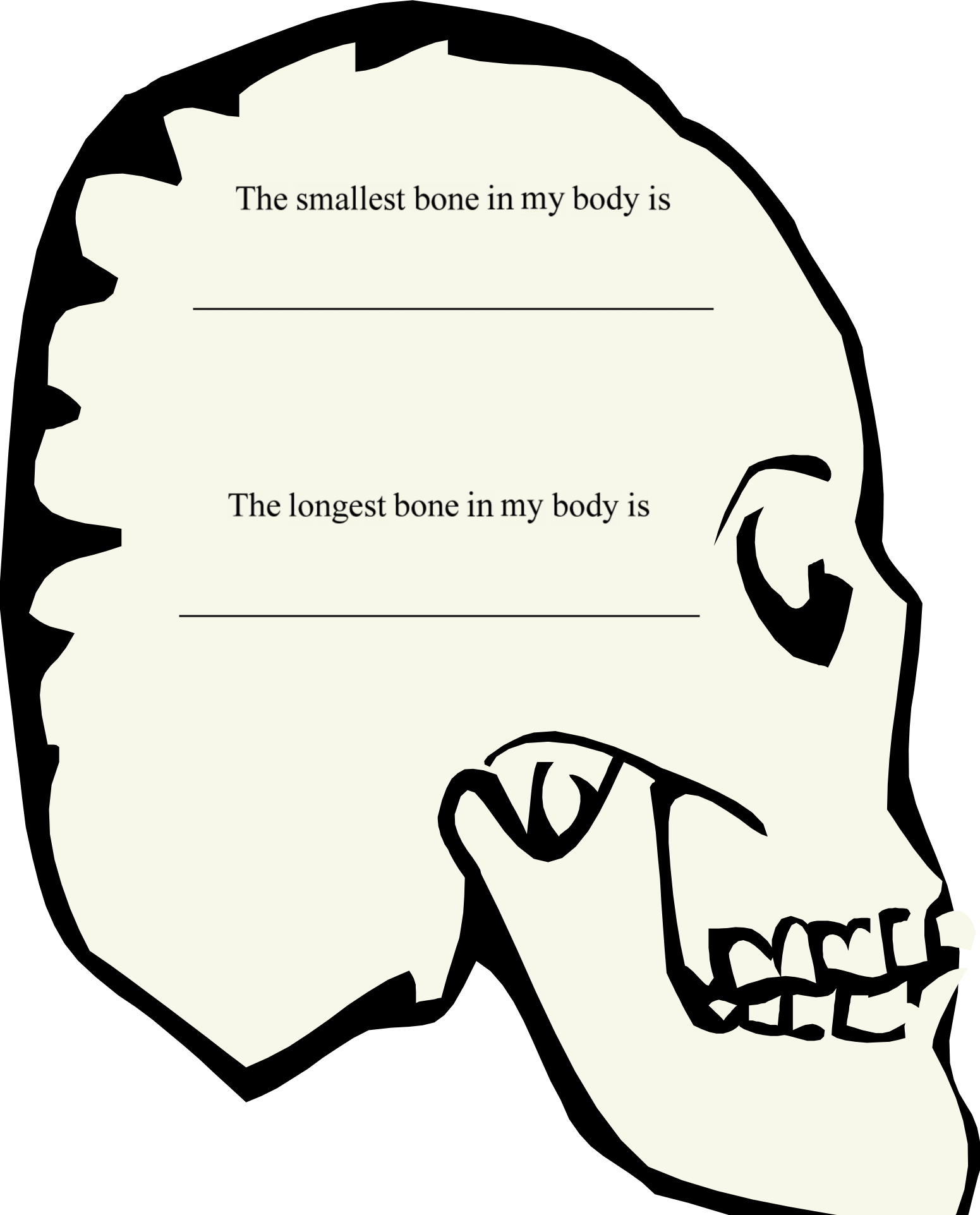
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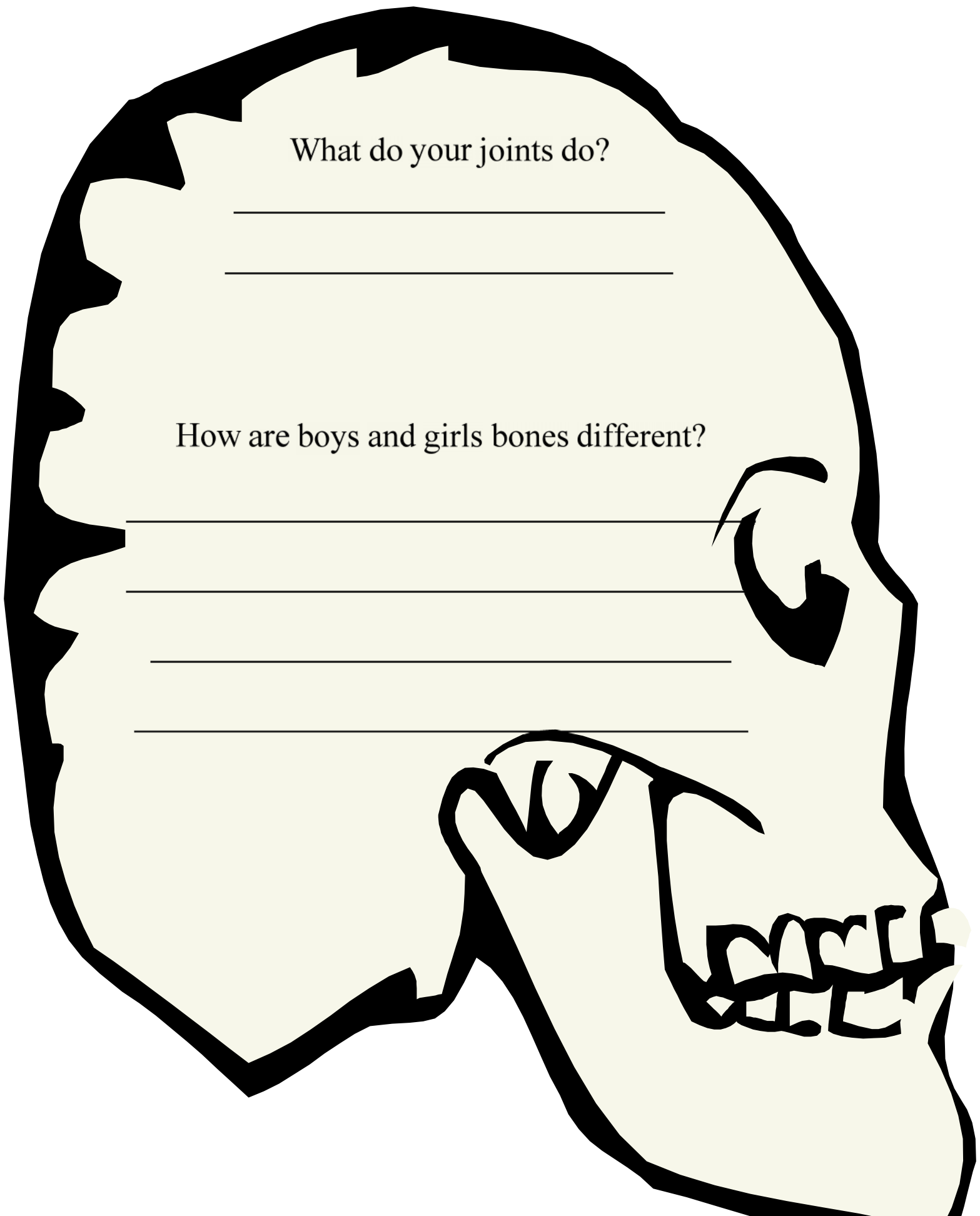


The smallest bone in my body is

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The longest bone in my body is

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What do your joints do?

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How are boys and girls bones different?

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