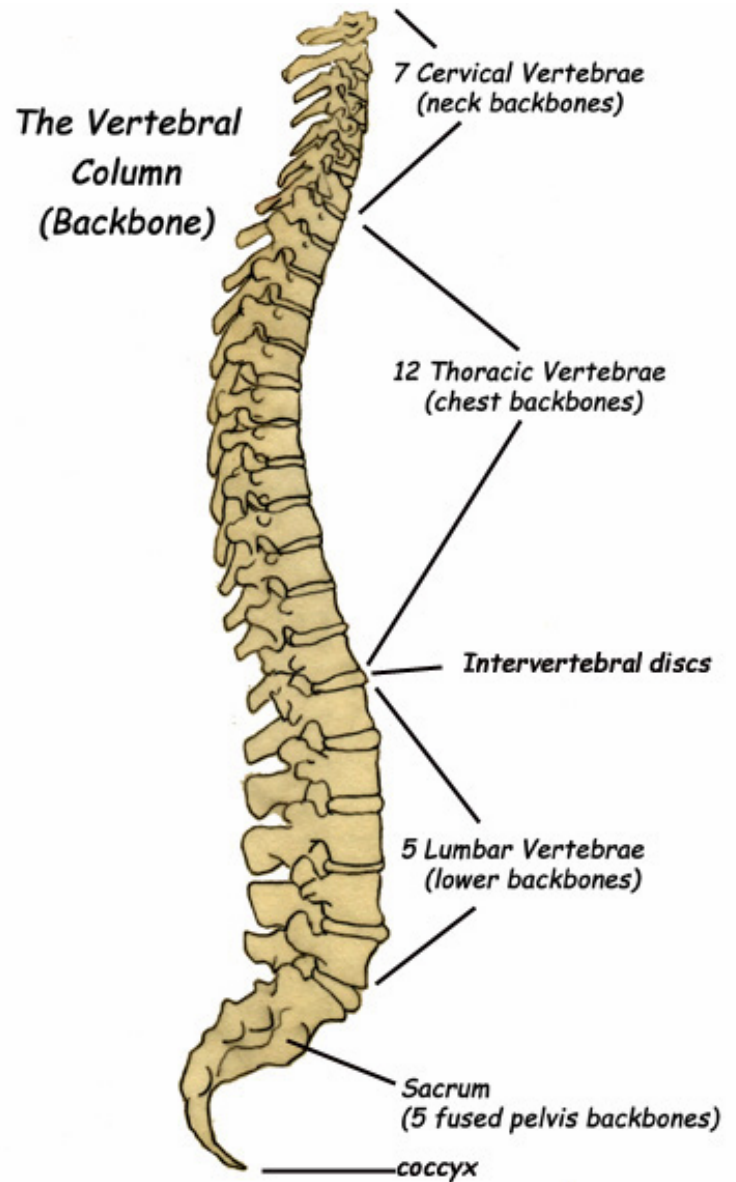


The Vertebral Column (Backbone)

The Skeletal System



Organs

The vertebral column includes; 7 neck vertebra called cervical vertebra, 12 chest vertebra called thoracic vertebra, 5 lower back vertebra called lumbar vertebra, the sacrum (which makes up the back side of the pelvis) and the tail bone or coccyx.

Function

The vertebral column is made up of 26 irregular bones. It is attached on top to the skull, which it holds up and to the pelvis on the bottom, where it is anchored to the lower limbs. It surrounds and protects the spinal cord inside it. It anchors the ribcage and the strong muscles of the back that hold the body upright. Each vertebra is separated by a cushion-like disc that helps pad the moving backbones as we move. The vertebral column is about 28 inches long in an average adult. It has an S-shape that helps it be strong and flexible.

CITING RESEARCH REFERENCES

Amsel, Sheri. "Skeletal System." The Vertebral Column (Backbone). Exploring Nature Educational Resource. © 2005 - 2009. November 19, 2009. <<http://exploringnature.org/db/detail.php?dbID=24&detID=28>>