

Halloween Anatomy: Mr. Skeleton!

There is never a better time to learn about the skeletal system than Halloween! A fun activity for children of all ages, “Mr. Skeleton” can help your children develop a basic understanding of the many bones that are found in the body. By the time they’re done they will have named all of the major bones of the body, developed a better understanding of joints, and have learned a collection of fun facts. This activity usually takes just 5-20 minutes, but for added fun, you can color/decorate the skeleton too. Only a few materials are needed:

- 5 pages printed
 - Mr. Skeleton template available below
- ¾” Brass Paper Fasteners
 - WARNING: Choking hazard
 - These can be replaced by glue or tape, but the fasteners are preferred to demonstrate simple movements of joints
- Child-safe scissors
- Any other supplies needed to color or decorate the skeleton

If you post a picture of your finished project on Instagram or Facebook with the hashtag #RVUSUFallHealthFair, or email a picture to marketing@rvu.edu, you will be entered into a drawing for a prize!



Did you know?...

- The smallest bone in the body is in your ear!
- The longest bone of the body is the femur (it's also the strongest)!
- Over half of all of the bones in your body are in your hands and feet!
- Your "funny bone" isn't actually a bone, but a nerve near your elbow. This is why, when you bump your funny bone, you feel a strange, tingling pain. Ouch!
- When two bones come together we call it a joint. While many joints move (like your knee and elbow), there are other joints that don't (like the joints that make up your skull)!
- Your bones don't just provide structure and strength; they also help produce more blood for your body!
- Some people are born with an extra rib found at the bottom of the neck!
- Even though it's much lighter, bone is stronger than steel!
- Bones may be strong, but your teeth are actually stronger!

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INSTRUCTIONS

Just follow these simple steps

1. Print the 5 pages of "Mr. Skeleton" included below
Tip: To save paper you can select to print pages 3-7
2. If you're going to draw on your skeleton now might be the time! Of course if you'd like, you can wait until he's all finished being put together
3. Cut out all of the different bones
4. Lay all of the bones out on the table or floor and set them where they need to go (use the picture below as a guide)



5. Overlap the two bones where a joint is formed
6. Using the paper fastener, punch a hole from the top page into the bottom page and spread the prongs apart until they lie flat against the bottom paper
7. Repeat on every joint until you have an entire, spooky skeleton!



BONUS: Try to position him in different ways! Can you make him run? Dance? Cheer? Wave hello? You can even tape him to a wall or door in any silly position you like!



WARNING: Brass paper fasteners are a potential choking hazard, and the use of scissors should be done under the supervision of an adult.

Mr. Skeleton









