



TEACHER'S NOTES

MAKE A DANCING SKELETON PUPPET

OVERVIEW

Aimed at **key stage 2 (7-9 years)**

(Prep time 5 mins/Class time 50 mins)

Learners engage with the concept and function of bones, skeletons and joints, working in pairs to identify the names of key bones before joining bones together in the correct sequence to build a skeleton puppet.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To understand the three purposes of bones and learn the two main types of joints within humans
- To learn the latin names of key bones
- To make a puppet by connecting different bones together in the correct sequence
- To work in pairs to share information

CURRICULUM LINKS

- Scientific and technological understanding: apply knowledge and understanding to describe and explain the structure and function of key human body systems
- Understanding the arts: design and create images and artefacts, expressing ideas for clearly defined purposes
- Understanding personal development, health and wellbeing: collaborate and compete individually, in pairs and in teams

you will NEED

- Labelled **dancing skeleton** (provided, three or four copies),
- **Dancing skeleton** worksheet (provided) for each learner,
- **Make a dancing skeleton puppet** worksheet (provided) for each learner
- Map pins (1 for each learner)
- Split-pin paper fasteners (9 for each learner)
- Scissors

PREPARATION

- Stick the Labelled **dancing skeleton** sheets on the walls around the classroom

Activity

- Start the activity by introducing the concept of bones and skeletons. Ask questions to draw out what bones are, and what they are for, such as, What do your bones do? What would you look like if you didn't have a skeleton?
- Summarise that we all have skeletons inside our bodies. Our bones help to keep our insides safe by protecting organs like the heart, lungs and brain. And our skeletons provide support, so we stand up instead of wobbling like jelly. Because our muscles connect to our bones, our skeletons also help us to walk, run or dance.
- Handout the **Dancing skeleton** worksheet and ask learners to work in pairs to fill in the blanks. If they don't know the answers already, each partner must take it in turns to go and check the labelled sheets on one of the classroom walls, remembering as much information as they can and sharing it when they get back to their desk.

TEACHER'S NOTES

MAKE A DANCING SKELETON PUPPET

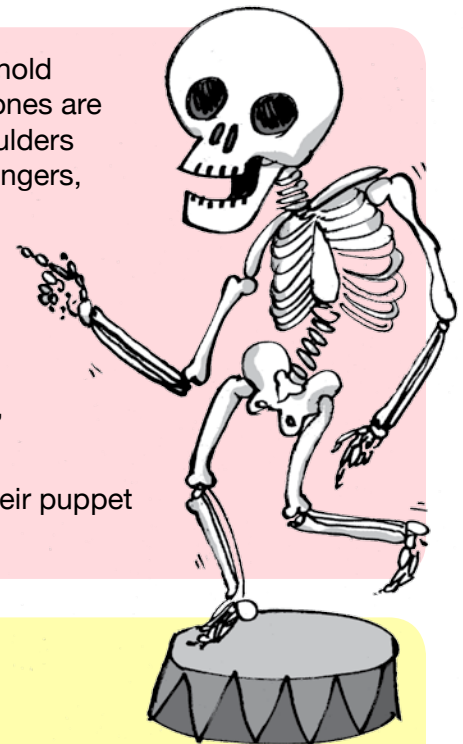
Activity

continued

• Explain that bones are connected by joints, which hold them together and let your skeleton move. Some bones are connected with ball and socket joints (like your shoulders and hips), others by hinge joints (like your elbows, fingers, knees and toes).

• Handout the **Make a dancing skeleton puppet** worksheet, the map pins and the split-pin paper fasteners. Explain that each learner is going to make their own skeleton puppet, by cutting out the bones and connecting them at the knee, hip, elbow, shoulder and neck joints.

• When everyone has finished, see who can make their puppet dance the best!



EXTENSION

• Make giant skeleton puppets by working in small groups to draw around one learner and designing bones that fit inside their silhouette, before connecting them together.

• See our **Perform a skeleton play** resource.

FURTHER INFORMATION

This online build a skeleton activity could be used on a whiteboard:

<http://sv.berkeley.edu/showcase/pages/bones.html>

This comprehensive online resource offers images of individual human bones as well as skeletons from other animals:

<http://www.eskeletons.org/>



FOR MORE RESOURCES LIKE THESE, AND TO SIGN UP FOR JEANS FOR GENES DAY, VISIT US AT WWW.JEANSFORGENES.COM

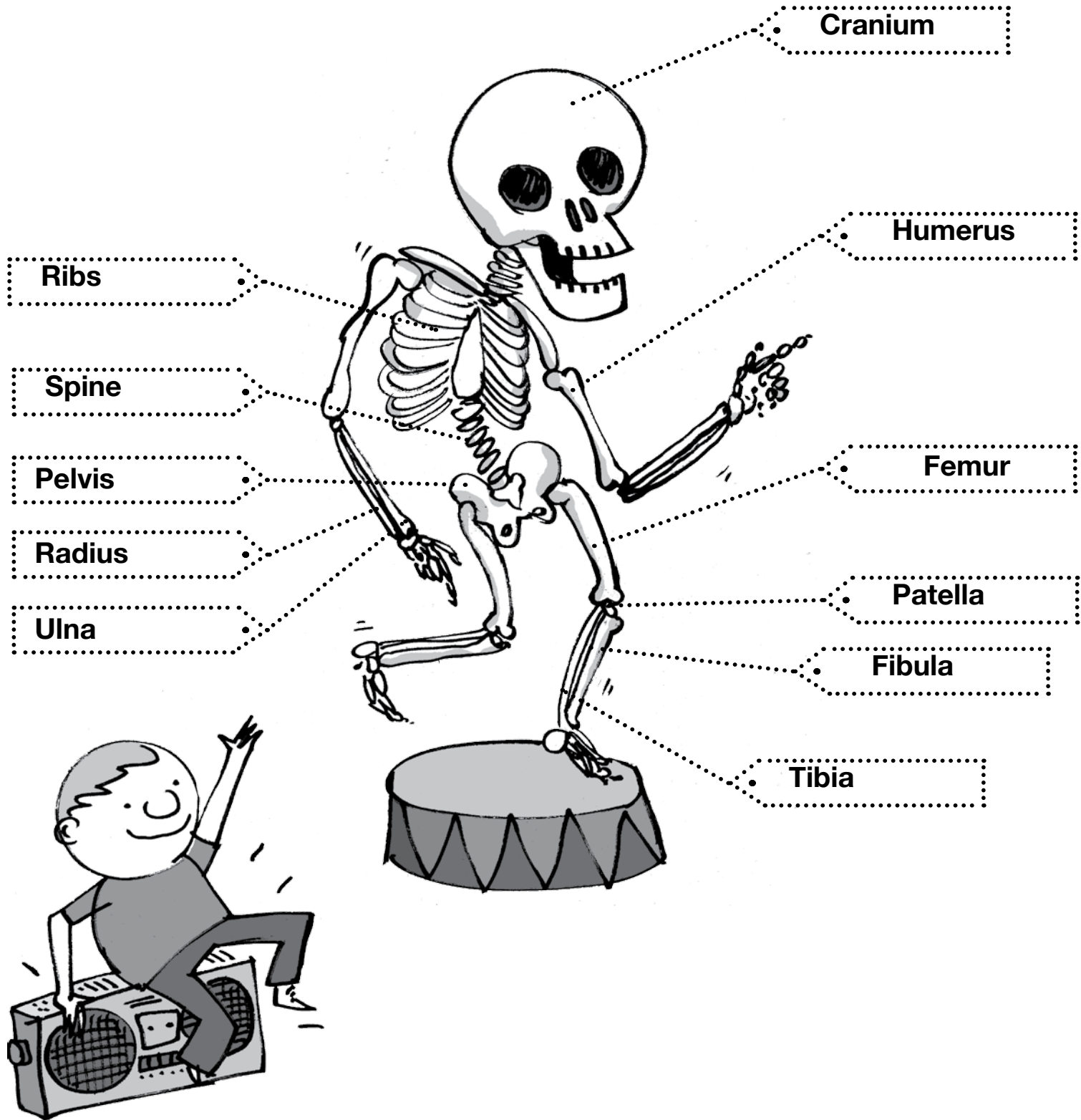
CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH

nowgen

A Centre for Genetics in Healthcare



LABELLED DANCING SKELETON



FOR MORE RESOURCES GO TO WWW.JEANSFORGENES.COM

CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH

nowgen

A Centre for Genetics in Healthcare

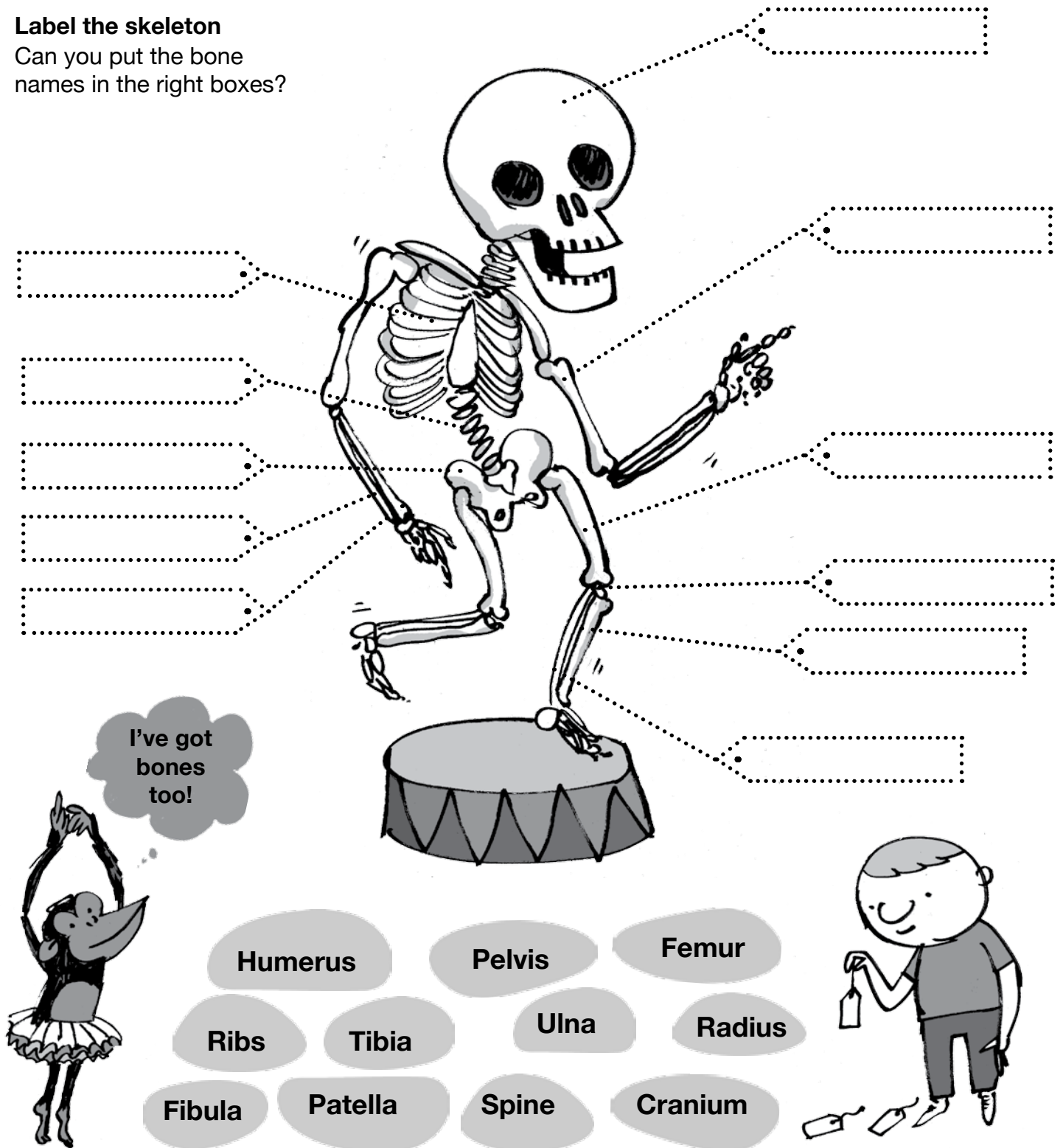


DANCING SKELETON WORKSHEET

We all have skeletons inside our body. Our bones help to keep our insides safe and they help us stand, walk, run and dance.

Label the skeleton

Can you put the bone names in the right boxes?



FOR MORE RESOURCES GO TO WWW.JEANSFORGENES.COM

CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH

nowgen





A Centre for Genetics in Healthcare

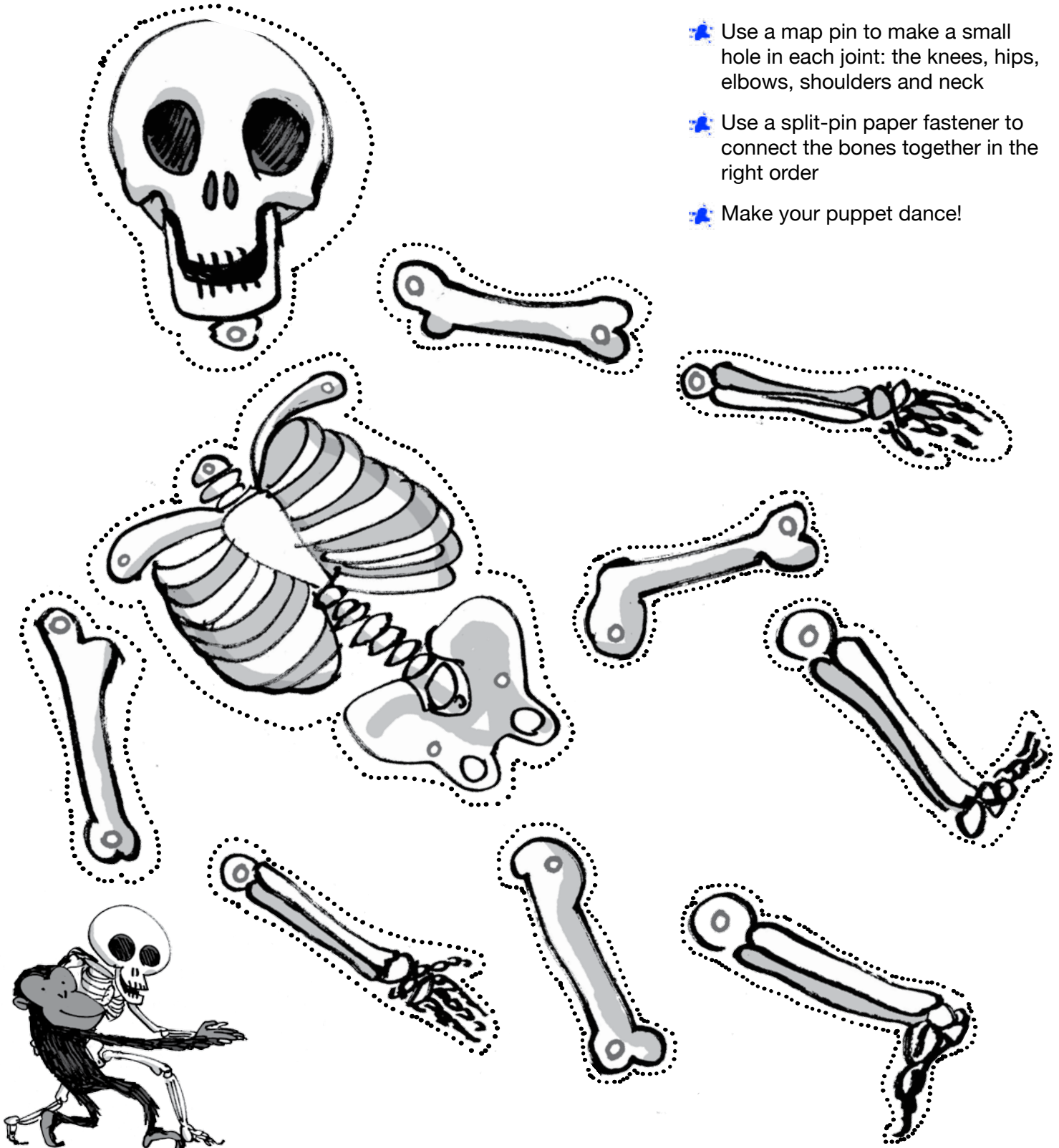


MAKE A DANCING SKELETON

Cut out the bones, connect them at the joints and make your skeleton dance!

Make your own puppet

-  Cut out the bones
-  Use a map pin to make a small hole in each joint: the knees, hips, elbows, shoulders and neck
-  Use a split-pin paper fastener to connect the bones together in the right order
-  Make your puppet dance!



FOR MORE RESOURCES GO TO WWW.JEANSFORGENES.COM

CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH

nowgen
A Centre for Genetics in Healthcare