

Activity 4: Longest bone

Discover the longest bone in your body and find out what dinosaur(s) were the same height as you!

Learning outcomes

Children will:

- make accurate measurements and record and analyse simple data
- identify the longest bone in their own body
- learn that not all dinosaurs are the same size
- discover that some animals have individual bones that are taller than children
- use mathematics to help answer a question
- understand that maths can be applied to learning about the human body

Background

The longest bone in the human body is called the femur, or thigh bone.

Scientists have worked out that in most children under eight years old and adults over 18, this bone is approximately a quarter of the total body height. The only time this changes is when children reach their teenage growth spurt at around 10–15 years old.

Resources required

Provided in the Natural History Museum package:

- worksheet
- paper-model of Dippy's femur to put together

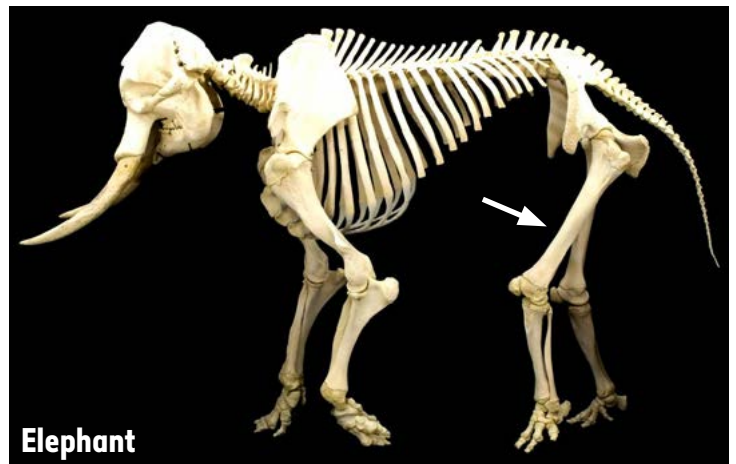
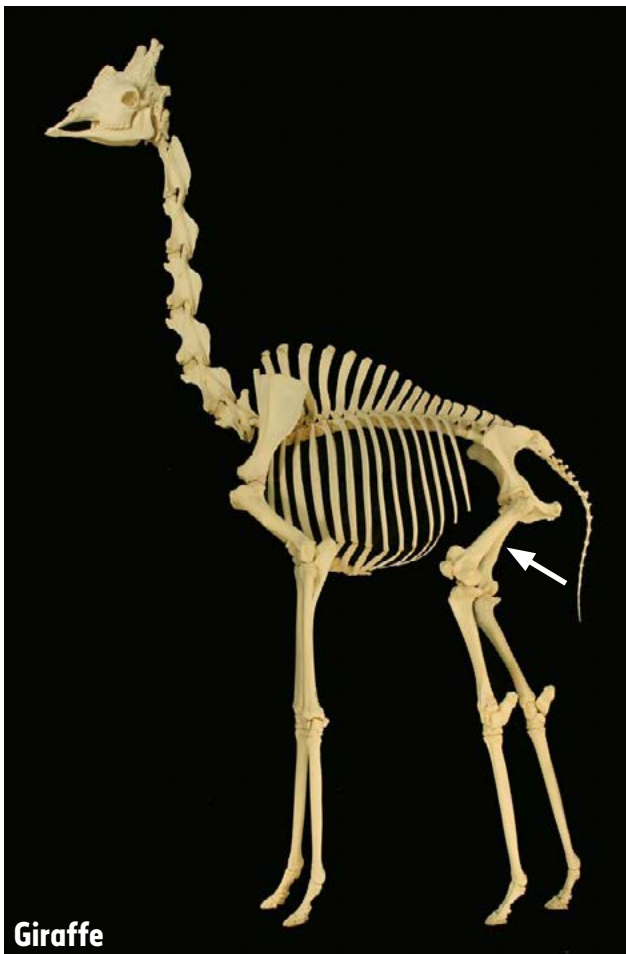
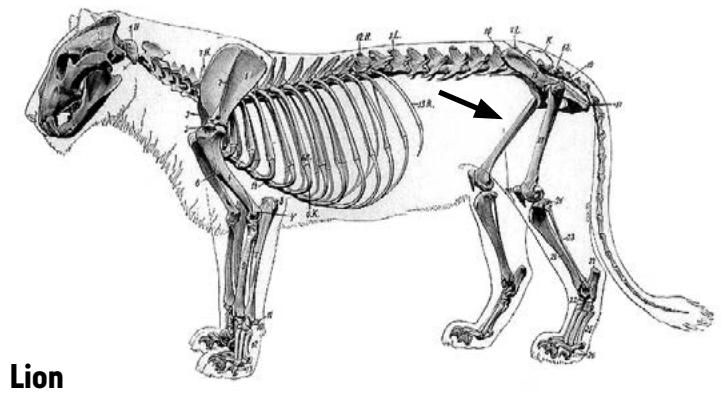
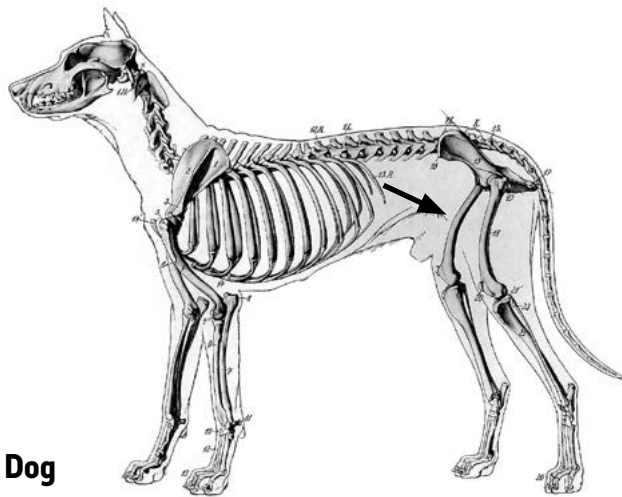
Provided by school:

- printing
- metre sticks, rulers or tape measures
- string
- dinosaur factual books or wall chart

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Most land mammals and birds, many reptiles and some amphibians have femurs. In animals with four legs the femur is only found in the hind limbs (indicated by the arrows). The femur is the strongest bone in the body, and it is the longest bone in the human body.