The following activities will help your students understand and appreciate the work of their bones, muscles, and joints.

**Related KidsHealth Links**

**Articles for Kids:**

- **Your Bones**
  KidsHealth.org/en/kids/bones.html

- **Movie: Bones & Skeletal System**
  KidsHealth.org/en/kids/ssmovie.html

- **Your Muscles**
  KidsHealth.org/en/kids/muscles.html

- **Movie: Muscular System**
  KidsHealth.org/en/kids/msmovie.html

- **The Facts About Broken Bones**
  KidsHealth.org/en/kids/broken-bones.html

- **Cool Cast Facts**
  KidsHealth.org/en/kids/casts.html

- **Strains and Sprains Are a Pain**
  KidsHealth.org/en/kids/strains-sprains.html

- **Getting an X-ray (video)**

**Discussion Questions**

*Note: The following questions are written in language appropriate for sharing with your students.*

1. Can you name some of the bones you have in your body? Where can you find them?

2. Bones are so hard! Would it would be easier for people to move around without them?

3. Where do you have joints in your body? How do joints move? What would happen if you didn’t have joints?

4. You’ve got more than 600 muscles in your body, but what can they do? Where can you find muscles in your body? Are all of the muscles in your body alike?

5. Have you ever broken a bone? Or strained a muscle, or sprained a ligament? How did it happen? How did you get better?

6. Your bones, muscles, and joints keep you moving and grooving. How can you take care of each of these important body parts?
Activities for Students

Note: The following activities are written in language appropriate for sharing with your students.

A Winning Combination

Objectives:
Students will:
• Learn how bones, muscles, and joints work together to move the body

Materials:
• Computer with Internet access
• Word processing program, or pen and paper

Class Time:
• 1 hour

Activity:
Think of a physical activity, exercise, or sport that you like. To find out how bones, muscles, and joints work together, we'll focus on one area: the knee. First, check out the slideshow at KidsHealth.org/en/kids/muscles.html, then write about how your knee works when you do your activity or exercise, or play your sport. Make sure to include:
• The names of the bones that meet at the knee joint
• The jobs of all the parts of the knee (bones, cartilage, muscles, ligaments, and tendons)
• How these parts work together

Extension:
Pick one important way to be safe and protect your bones, muscles, and joints when you’re being active, exercising, or playing sports. Make a poster that illustrates your safety tip. Hang your posters in the school gym or near the playground.
Dr. Build-A-Bone’s Laboratory

Objectives:
Students will:
• Learn about the materials that make up bone
• Label a cross section of bone

Materials:
• Computer with Internet access
• “Dr. Build-A-Bone’s Laboratory” handout

Class Time:
35 minutes

Activity:
Test tubes fizzing. Bunsen burners heating flasks full of mysterious chemicals. Electricity sizzling along wires. You’ve just entered the laboratory of the mad scientist, Dr. Build-A-Bone! Dr. Build-A-Bone has dedicated his life to discovering what mysterious substances are in bones, and to developing a process for growing new bone. For years scientists have been searching for his laboratory — now you are the lucky one who has found it! But you don’t have much time to look around, because the mad doctor will soon return. You grab some documents and make a quick getaway. Once home, though, you discover that Dr. Build-A-Bone’s papers are incomplete, and parts of the bones are not labeled (see the “Dr. Build-A-Bone’s Laboratory” handout). Use the articles at KidsHealth.org, especially the slideshow at KidsHealth.org/en/kids/bones.html, to help you fill in the blanks.

Reproducible Materials

Handout: Dr. Build-A-Bone’s Laboratory
KidsHealth.org/classroom/3to5/body/systems/bones_handout1.pdf

Answer Key: Dr. Build-A-Bone’s Laboratory
KidsHealth.org/classroom/3to5/body/systems/bones_handout2.pdf

Quiz: Bones, Muscles, and Joints
KidsHealth.org/classroom/3to5/body/systems/bones_quiz.pdf

Answer Key: Bones, Muscles, and Joints
KidsHealth.org/classroom/3to5/body/systems/bones_quiz_answers.pdf
Dr. Build-A-Bone’s Laboratory

Instructions: Conduct some research on KidsHealth.org (check out the slideshow at KidsHealth.org/en/kids/bones.html), then label the parts of the bone, and complete the notes and other documents.

Diagram of Bone

Notes

Adult human beings have _________ bones in their bodies. We also have more than _________ muscles.

Experiments

Which substance is needed in the diet to keep bones strong?

a) Sugar
b) Calcium
c) Bonium

Results

Is cartilage important for movement?

Yes

No

These are the names of the two bones I will try to create in the lab:

Name:

Date:
Answer Key: Dr. Build-A-Bone’s Laboratory

Diagram of Bone

Notes
- Adult human beings have 206 bones in their bodies. We also have more than 600 muscles.

Experiments
- Which substance is needed in the diet to keep bones strong?
  a) Sugar
  b) Calcium
  c) Bonium

Results
- Is cartilage important for movement?
  Yes
  No

These are the names of the two bones I will try to create in the lab:
- Any two individual bones, or group of bones, such as the skull.
Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question.

1. True or false: The bones of your skeleton are alive. __________________

2. What is the innermost part of the bone called?
   a. periosteum
   b. compact bone
   c. cancellous bone
   d. bone marrow

3. What are the 26 bones of the spine called? _______________________

4. Which bones protect your heart, lungs, and liver? ________________________

5. List three ways to take care of your bones:
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

6. The place where two bones meet is called a ________________________.

7. Name two types of moving joints:
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

8. Which of the following is NOT a type of muscle?
   a. smooth muscle
   b. rough muscle
   c. cardiac muscle
   d. skeletal muscle

9. Skeletal muscles are held to the bones with the help of ____________________.

10. Which of the following cushions and protects the bones where they meet?
    a. ligaments
    b. tendons
    c. cartilage
    d. muscle
Quiz Answer Key

1. True or false: The bones of your skeleton are alive. __________true________

2. What is the innermost part of the bone called?
   a. periosteum
   b. compact bone
   c. cancellous bone
   d. bone marrow

3. What are the 26 bones of the spine called? __________vertebrae________

4. Which bones protect your heart, lungs, and liver? __________ribs________

5. List three ways to take care of your bones:
   any of the following: wear a helmet; wear wrist supports and elbow and knee pads; wear all of the right equipment for sports like football, soccer, lacrosse, or ice hockey; don’t play on trampolines; eat foods with calcium; be active

6. The place where two bones meet is called a __________joint________

7. Name two types of moving joints:
   hinge joints
   ball-and-socket joints

8. Which of the following is NOT a type of muscle?
   a. smooth muscle
   b. rough muscle
   c. cardiac muscle
   d. skeletal muscle

9. Skeletal muscles are held to the bones with the help of __________tendons________

10. Which of the following cushions and protects the bones where they meet?
    a. ligaments
    b. tendons
    c. cartilage
    d. muscle