Incredible Invertebrates!

Invertebrates are a species of animals that do not have a backbone. Mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and birds are not invertebrates because they all have vertebrae (spinal bones). Vertebrates make up less than 4% of all the animal species on Earth. This means that around 96% of animal species alive are invertebrates. These include marine invertebrates and mollusks, such as sponges, jellyfish, and oysters, as well as crustaceans and insects, such as crabs, shrimp, and butterflies.

The largest invertebrate ever recorded was a giant squid that measured 40 feet long. The smallest invertebrates are so tiny that they cannot be seen by the naked eye.

Quick Questions

1. Write a short definition of the word "invertebrate."

_____

_____

2. What percentage of animals on Earth actually have spinal bones?

_____

3. Who do you think this information is for?

_____

_____

4. Write two questions that you could find the answers to in this text.

a. _____

b. _____

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Answers

1. Write a short definition of the word "invertebrate."
   Invertebrates are creatures without spinal bones.

2. What percentage of animals on Earth actually have spinal bones?
   4%

3. Who do you think this information is for?
   Answers will vary. Possible answers: Children, those who do not know about invertebrates, people interested in the animal species.

4. Write two questions that you could find the answers to in this text.
   Accept any questions that are correctly punctuated and whose answers can be directly retrieved from the text.