

What is Skull Anatomy?

Worksheet

Skull anatomy describes the 22 bones of the head: 8 form the neurocranium that encloses the brain, and 14 form the facial skeleton (viscerocranium) that shapes the face and supports chewing.

Questions

1. How many bones make up the neurocranium?
A) 6
B) 8
C) 12
D) 14
2. How many bones make up the facial skeleton (viscerocranium)?
A) 8
B) 10
C) 14
D) 22
3. What type of joint connects most skull bones?
A) Synovial joint
B) Suture (fibrous joint)
C) Ball-and-socket joint
D) Pivot joint
4. Which is the only freely movable bone of the skull?
A) Maxilla
B) Zygomatic bone
C) Mandible
D) Sphenoid
5. How many total bones make up the skull, and how are they split between cranial and facial groups?
6. A newborn's skull has soft spots (fontanelles) instead of solid sutures. Why?
7. Why is the mandible the only mobile bone in the skull?
8. Define: How many bones make up the skull?
9. Define: What is the neurocranium?
10. Define: What is the only movable bone of the skull?

Answer Key

1. B) 8 - The neurocranium has 8 bones: frontal, 2 parietal, 2 temporal, occipital, sphenoid and ethmoid.
2. C) 14 - The viscerocranium has 14 bones, including the mandible and maxillae.
3. B) Suture (fibrous joint) - Sutures are immovable fibrous joints that lock skull bones together.
4. C) Mandible - The mandible articulates at the TMJ, a synovial joint, allowing jaw movement.
5. The neurocranium has 8 bones: frontal, 2 parietal, 2 temporal, occipital, sphenoid, ethmoid The facial skeleton has 14 bones, including the mandible, 2 maxillae, and 2 zygomatic bones $8 + 14 = 22$ bones total in the skull
6. Sutures are fibrous joints that normally lock skull bones together At birth, ossification is incomplete, leaving fibrous membrane gaps called fontanelles These gaps allow the skull to compress during birth and the brain to grow rapidly afterward, closing (mostly) by 18-24 months
7. All other skull bones are joined by immovable or nearly immovable sutures The mandible connects to the temporal bone at the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), a synovial joint A synovial joint allows the free movement needed for chewing and speaking
8. 22 bones: 8 in the neurocranium and 14 in the facial skeleton.
9. The 8-bone case that surrounds and protects the brain.
10. The mandible (lower jaw), via the temporomandibular joint.

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