

Human Body: Skeletal System

Made up of bone and cartilage, the human skeletal system has many important functions, including support, movement, protection of internal organs, blood cell production, and mineral storage.

Skeleton

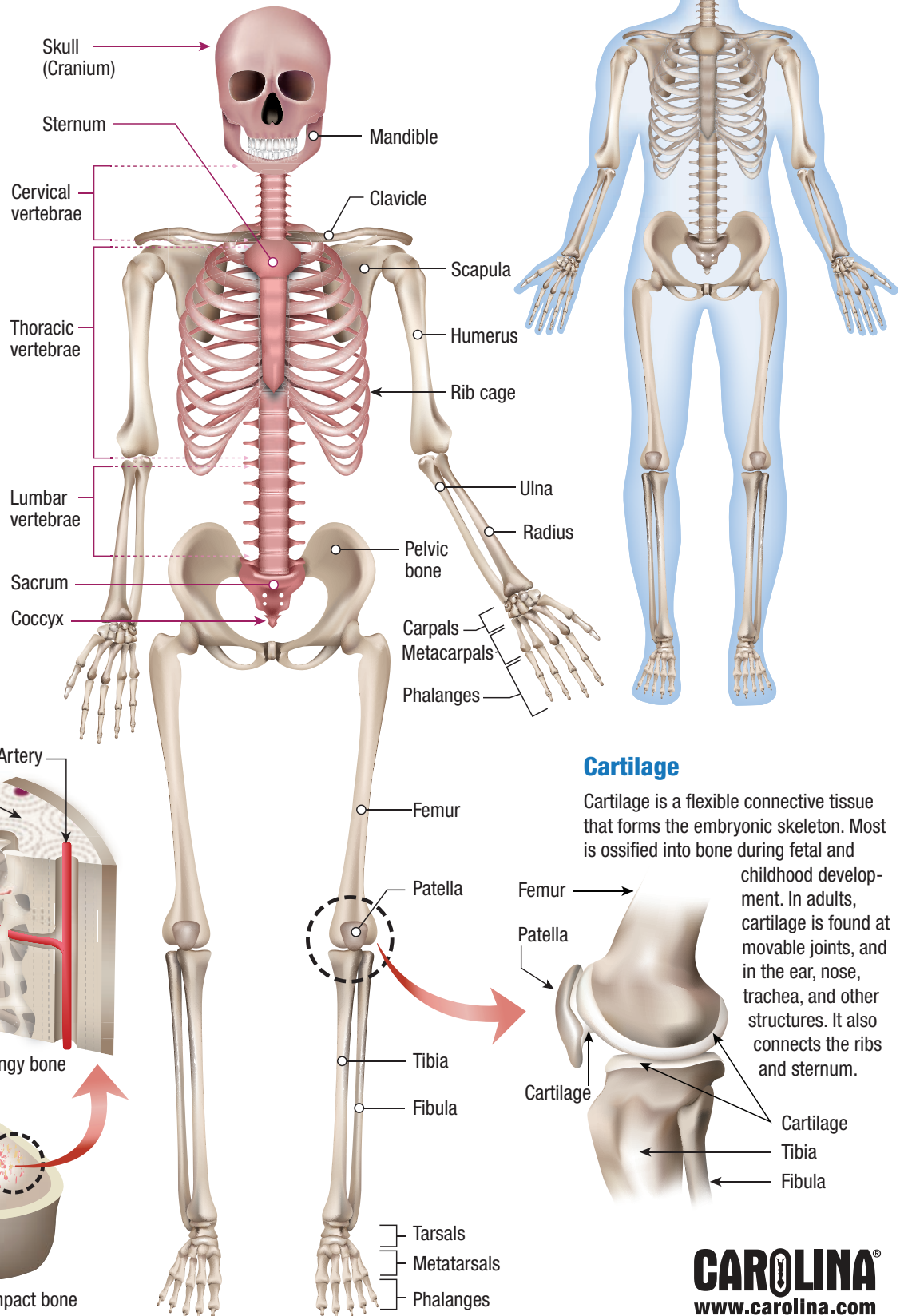
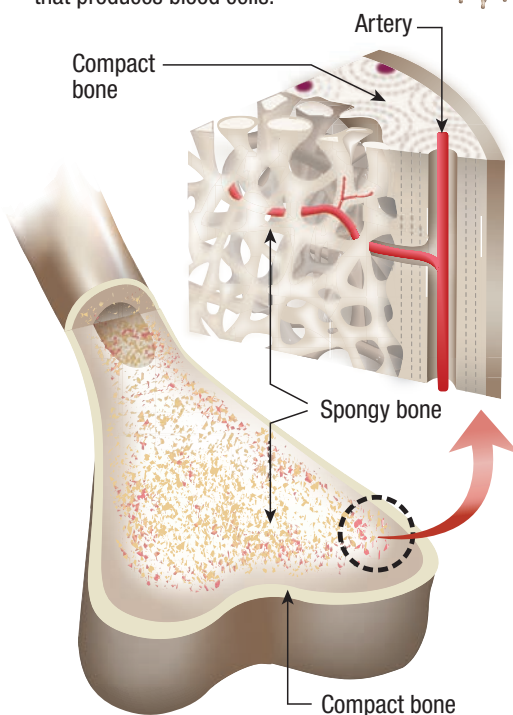
The adult human body has 206 bones and can be divided into 2 parts—the axial skeleton and the appendicular skeleton.

The **axial skeleton** (highlighted in red) includes bones of the skull, vertebral column, ribs, sternum, sacrum, and coccyx, totaling 80 bones.

The **appendicular skeleton** includes the 126 bones of the shoulders, pelvis, and upper and lower extremities.

Bone Tissue

There are 2 types of bone tissue. **Compact bone** is hard, dense, mineralized tissue that gives bone its strength. It usually surrounds spongy bone tissue. **Spongy bone** is a porous layer of tissue that makes bone lightweight. Its spaces usually contain blood vessels and bone marrow, a soft tissue that produces blood cells.



Cartilage

Cartilage is a flexible connective tissue that forms the embryonic skeleton. Most is ossified into bone during fetal and childhood development. In adults, cartilage is found at movable joints, and in the ear, nose, trachea, and other structures. It also connects the ribs and sternum.

