Gaits of Animals

The different patterns of movement of animals due to the differences in their skeletal structure are called gaits of animals.

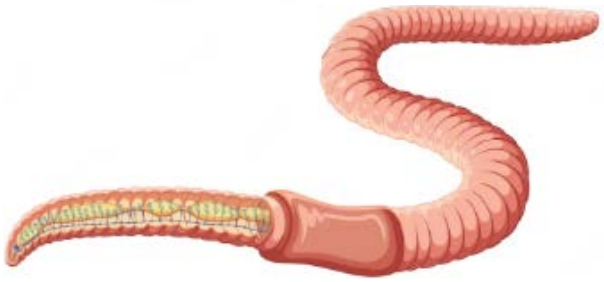
Earthworm

The earthworm does not have any internal skeleton.

The body is made up of many rings joined end to end and muscles attached to these rings help to extend and shorten the body.

The skin of earthworm also has a large number of tiny bristles that help it get a good grip on the ground.

Repeated extension and contraction of the body muscles, enable the earthworm to move through the soil.



Snail

Snails move with the help of their muscular, flat foot.

They glide along a solid surface which is lubricated with mucus.

This motion is powered by succeeding waves of muscular contractions of the foot.

Gaits of Animals

Cockroach

The body of a cockroach is covered with a hard outer skeleton that is made of different units joined together.

It has three pairs of legs for walking and two pairs of wings attached to the breast for flying.

It has distinct muscles that are used for movement.

The muscles attached to the legs help in walking.

The breast muscles attached to the wings help in flying, although they are not good flyers.

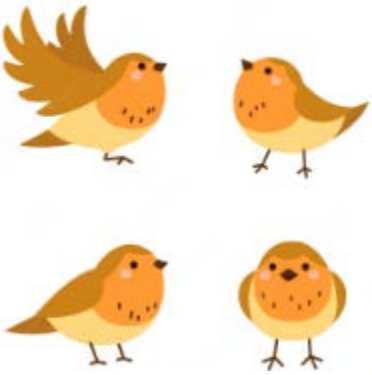
Birds

Birds have a special skeletal and muscular structures that help them to fly.

The forelimbs are modified to become wings and the bones inside are hollow to suit flying.

The bones of the hind limbs are used for perching and walking.

The shoulder bones and breastbones are strong and support muscles of flight, which move the wings up and down.



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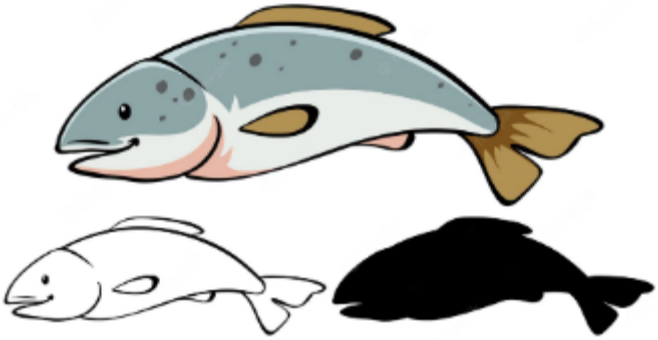
Fish

Fishes have a streamlined body that helps them swim with least resistance.

They use tail fin for small jerks through water and other fins assist swimming.

The tail fin is also used for changing directions.



Snakes

Snakes do not have legs for movement but use their long backbone along with muscles for movement.

Their body curves into many loops, which gives it a forward push by pressing against the ground.