

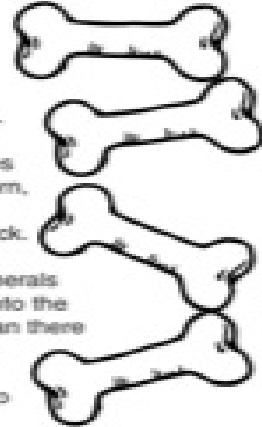
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions.

### Bones

Bones are strong, yet light. Before we are born, our bones are solid. Gradually, some bones become hollow, which makes them very light, but hollow bones are still strong. As our bodies develop in the womb, our bones are made of a soft, flexible material called cartilage. By the time we are born, much of this cartilage has turned to bone. New bone tissue is constantly being made. Minerals that we get from food make the bones as hard as rock. Strong, stringy materials called collagen also run through most bones and strengthen them. The bones are a storage place for minerals. If certain minerals are needed by other parts of the body, they are released from the bones into the blood. Until the age of thirty-five, there is more new bone being created than there is old bone breaking down. By the time we reach old age, a lot of minerals and collagen have disappeared from our bones, which weakens them. These weak bones break more easily, sometimes causing elderly people to suffer from broken bones.



1. What is the main idea of this story?

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2. What are bones made of?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What makes bones hard?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Are bones solid or hollow? Explain.

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5. How do bones grow?

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6. What makes bones weak?

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