

## Build a Skeleton Transcript

[00:00:01] Hi, I'm Rachel. I'm the curator of natural history here at the Powell-Cotton Museum. And today, I'm going to be showing you a spectacular skeleton from our collection.

[00:00:14] This is the skeleton of an animal that was collected by Percy Powell-Cotton in the Republic of Chad, which is in Central Africa. He collected it in 1925, which makes it almost a hundred years old. Which part of the skeleton do you think these bones are from? I'll give you a clue. This animal walks on four legs. These bones form the animal's spine all the way from its shoulder down to its tail. These tail bones look really tiny, but that's just because the rest of the skeleton is so big.

[00:01:28] This animal has the longest tail of any land mammal. It can be over two meters long. These are the animal's ribs. The ribs act a bit like armor, supporting and protecting the organs inside the body. This animal has 14 pairs of ribs. Can you count your ribs? How many do you think you've got?

[00:02:26] Here is the shoulder and the front leg. It has most of the same bones that you do in your arm. This joint looks like it should be the elbow, but it's actually the wrist. And this long straight bone is the same as the ones in the palm of your hand. This animal's legs are longer than most. Humans are tall, and it stands right on the tips of its toes, almost like a ballerina on stilts.

[00:02:58] Have you worked out what it is yet? It's the giraffe. Giraffes have really long necks so that they can eat the leaves right at the top of trees where other animals can't reach, even though they're really long. Giraffes only have seven bones in their necks, which is the same number that you have. This skeleton belongs to a very special giraffe. It's from the same animal that stands at the back of a big diorama in Gallery one. It's one of the biggest animals that we have on display. He's almost five meters tall, which is bigger than a double decker bus.