

## Brilliant Bones

Today's #MuseumMake is about bones. Did you know bone has been used to make everyday objects for thousands of years? Here at the museum we have lots of beautiful objects on display made from bone – everything from a necklace to a model boat.

Today we are making salt dough bones. Follow the recipe and then play with the bones. You could pretend to be digging for fossils or use the bones to make some jewellery – a necklace or bracelet. You could even make your own mini-museum display.

You will need:

· 2 Cups of Water · 2 Cups of Flour · 1 Cup of Salt · Bowl · Mixing Spoon · Baking tin · Grease proof paper · Tools to sculpt.

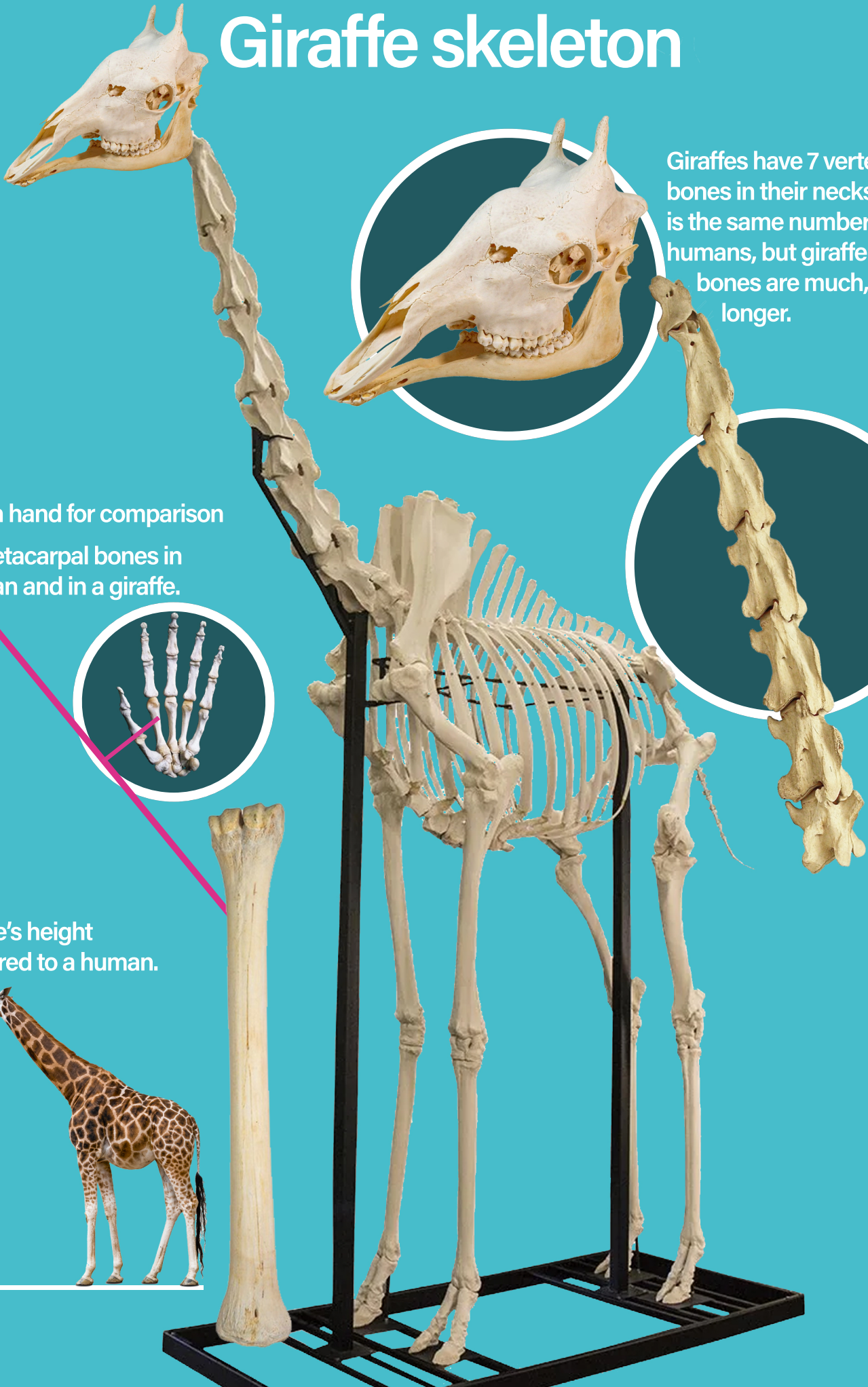
1. Add the flour and salt into a bowl and mix.
2. Slowly add the water until the dough becomes a 'bread-dough like' consistency.
3. Take the dough out of the bowl and knead it until you are happy. If the dough is a bit sticky, add in some more flour, if it's crumbly, add in a little water.
4. Cut the dough into bits and shape into bones.
5. Put the bone shapes on a baking tray lined with greaseproof paper.
6. Place in the oven at a low heat (100c or Gas Mark 1/4) for 3 hours.
7. Remove from the oven when the bones are hard and leave to cool.

Why not look at examples of different skeletons from our collection to help you make yours?

Show us how yours turn out using #MuseumMake



## Giraffe skeleton



Giraffes have 7 vertebrae bones in their necks. This is the same number as humans, but giraffe neck bones are much, much longer.

Human hand for comparison

The metacarpal bones in a human and in a giraffe.



A giraffe's height compared to a human.



# #MuseumMake

## Gorilla skeleton

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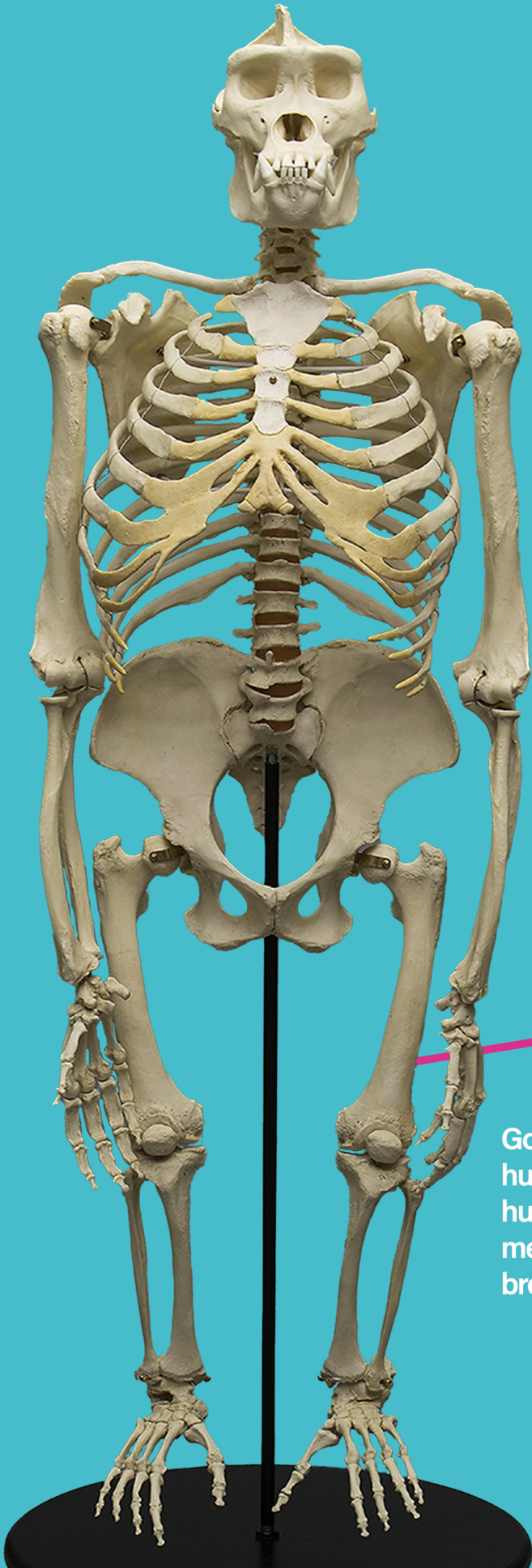
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Gorillas are the largest primates in the world and they have parts of their body that are very similar to those of humans. We share around 98% of our DNA with gorillas.



Gorilla bones are much denser and spongier than human bones making them heavier than us. As humans have less spongy bones than gorillas, this means it increases our chances of breaks and fractures.



# #MuseumMake

## Lion skeleton

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A lion's skull is made up of thick, strong bones that are heavy, which is important as they protect the brain. The frontal bone (the bone that makes up the forehead) is one of the thickest parts of the skull because it needs to be able to take a lot of force without breaking, which may occur while fighting or hunting.

Lions have 250-260 bones in their body.

