

## Skull bones: chart

05.025

Bone	Feature	Significance
Ethmoid bone		Principal support of nasal cavity
	Ethmoid air cells	Form ethmoid sinus
	Middle and superior nasal conchae	Form middle and superior meati of nose
Frontal bone		Forms front of cranium and roof of orbit
	Frontal sinuses	Lighten skull; act as voice resonators
Inferior conchae		Paired bones in nasal cavity
Lacrimal bone		Forms part of medial wall of orbit
Mandible		Forms lower jaw; supports lower teeth
	Coronoid process	Attachment for temporalis muscle
	Mental foramen	Transmits neurovascular bundle
Maxilla		Forms upper jaw
	Alveolar process	Supports upper teeth
	Infraorbital foramen	Transmits neurovascular bundle
Nasal bones		Form bridge of nose
Occipital bone		Forms lower part of back of cranium
	External occipital crest	Attachment of ligamentum nuche
	Foramen magnum	Transmits spinal cord, vertebral artery, and spinal accessory nerve
Palatine bones		Form posterior part of hard palate; form part of posterior orbital floor
Parietal bone		Forms side and roof of cranium
	Temporal lines	Attachment for temporalis muscle
Sphenoid bone		"Keystone" of cranial floor
	Foramen ovale	Transmits mandibular division of trigeminal nerve
	Foramen spinosum	Transmits middle meningeal artery
	Optic canal	Transmits optic nerve and ophthalmic artery
	Superior orbital fissure	Transmits 3rd, 4th, and 6th cranial nerves and branches of ophthalmic division of trigeminal nerve
Temporal bone		Forms part of side and back of cranium
	Carotid canal	Transmits internal carotid artery and internal carotid plexus
	External auditory meatus	Allows sound waves to reach eardrum
	Mastoid process	Contains mastoid air cells
	Styloid process	Attachment for muscles and ligaments
Vomer		Forms part of nasal septum
Zygomatic bone		Forms prominence of cheek and part of orbit