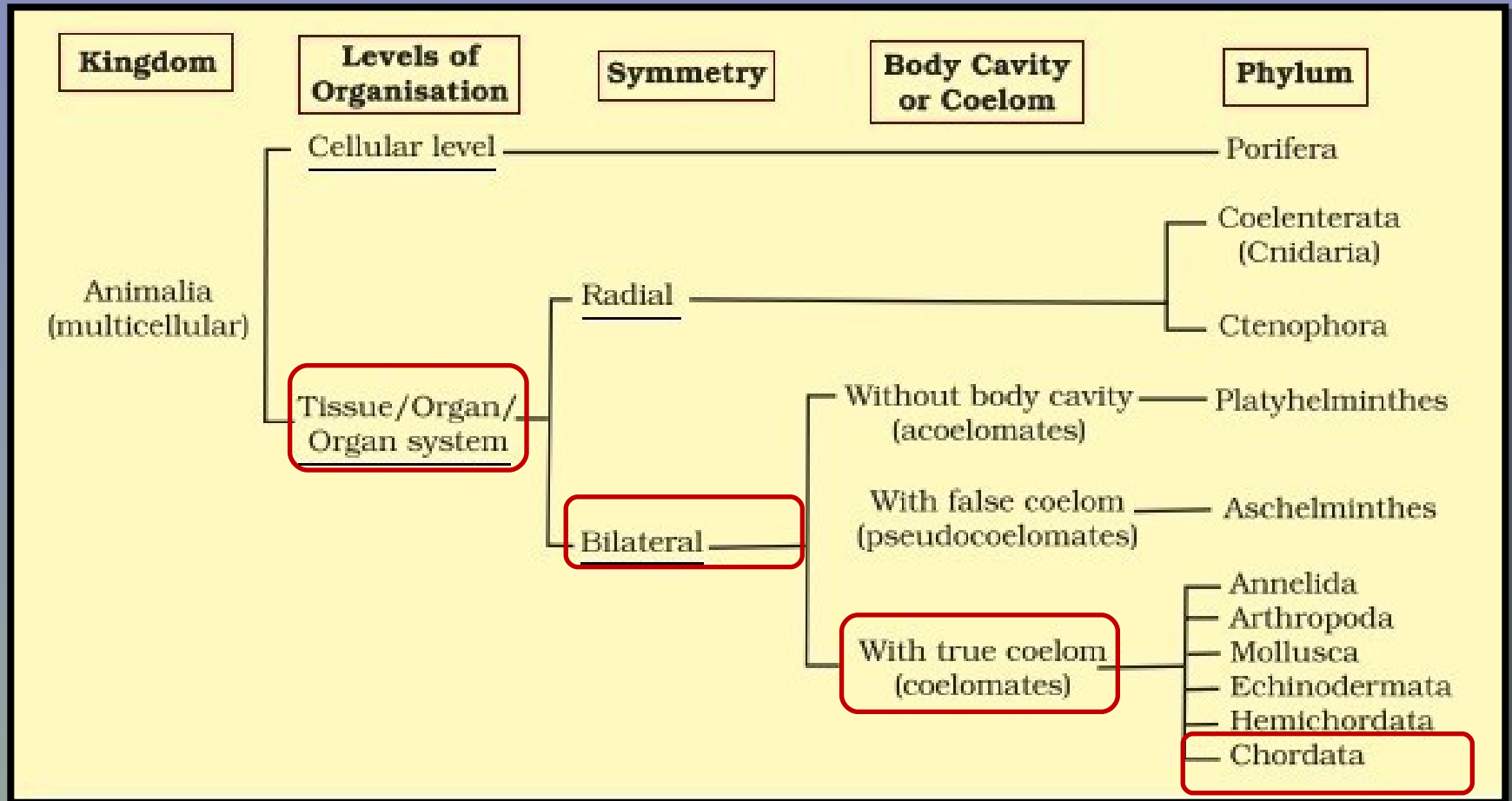


# ORIGIN AND GENERAL FEATURES OF PHYLUM CHORDATA



Triploblastic; Deutorostomia; Endoskeleton; Complete gut cavity; mostly dioecious organisms

Kingdom	Levels of Organization	Symmetry	Body Cavity (Coelom)	Embriyologica I Development (Germ Layer)	Embriyonic Development of the Mouth	Phylum
Animalia	Cell Level	→				Porifera
	Cell-Tissue Level	Radial	→	Diploblastic	→	Coelentrata Ctenophora
	Tissue-Organ Level		Acoelamata	→		Platyhelminthes
			Pseudocoelamata	→		Aschelminthes
				Triploblastic		Annelida Arthropoda Mollusca
	Organ-Organ System Level		Coelamata			Echinodermata
			Deutorostomia		Hemichordata	
						<b>CHORDATA</b>

# GENERAL FEATURES OF CHORDATA

1. **Notochord**
2. **Postanal tail**
3. **Dorsal tubular nerve cord**
4. **Pharyngeal pouches (slits)**
5. **Endostyle-Homologous with thyroid**
6. Bone and cartilage
7. Bilateral symmetry
8. Triploblastic
9. Coelom well developed
10. Internal Segmentation
11. Complete gut cavity (mouth and anus)
12. Close circulation

FIVE DISTINCTIVE  
CHARACTERS

# FIVE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS

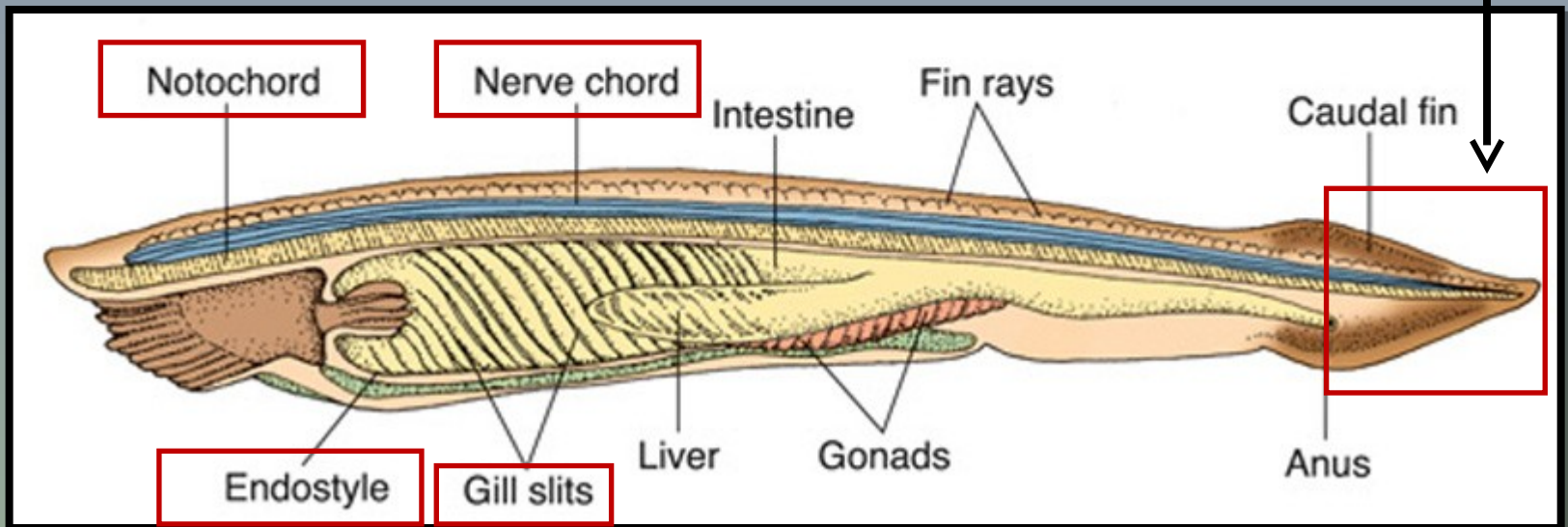
NOTOCHORD

DORSAL  
TUBULAR  
NERVE  
CHORD

ENDOSTYLE

PHARANGEAL  
SLITS

POST  
ANAL  
TAIL



**NOTOCHORD:** is a flexible, rodlike structure, extending the length of the body.

- It is the first part of the endoskeleton to appear in an embryo.
- It is a **hydrostatic organ** which contain fluid in single, large cavity (unlike nematods).
- In Amphioxus and in jawless vertebrates, the notochord persists throughout life.
- In most vertebrates, the notochord is replaced by vertebrae, but trace of the notochord may persist between or within the vertebrae.

## DORSAL TUBULAR NERVE CHORD

- In most invertebrate phyla, this structure is ventral to the digestive track and is solid.
- In chordates, this structure is single and found dorsal to the digestive track, and is tube.
- The anterior end becomes enlarged to form the brain in vertebrates.

## PHARYNGEAL POUCHES AND SLITS

- Pharyngeal slits is the opening that lead from the pharyngeal cavity to the outside.
- In aquatic chordates, two pockets break through the pharyngeal cavity and they meet to form the **pharyngeal slits**.
- In tetrapod (terrestrial) vertebrates the pharyngeal pouches (sacs) give rise to several different structures such as: Eustachian tube, middle ear cavity, tonsils, parathyroid glands

## ENDOSTYLE AND THYROID GLAND

- Until recently, endostyle was not recognized as a chordate character.
- But now, it is known that the thyroid gland is derived from it.
- The thyroid gland occurs only in all chordates.
- The **Endostyle**, secretes mucus for trapping small food particles.

## POSTANAL TAIL

- Provide the motility that larval tunicates and amphioxus to free-swimming.
- In humans, the tail is found only as a vestige.



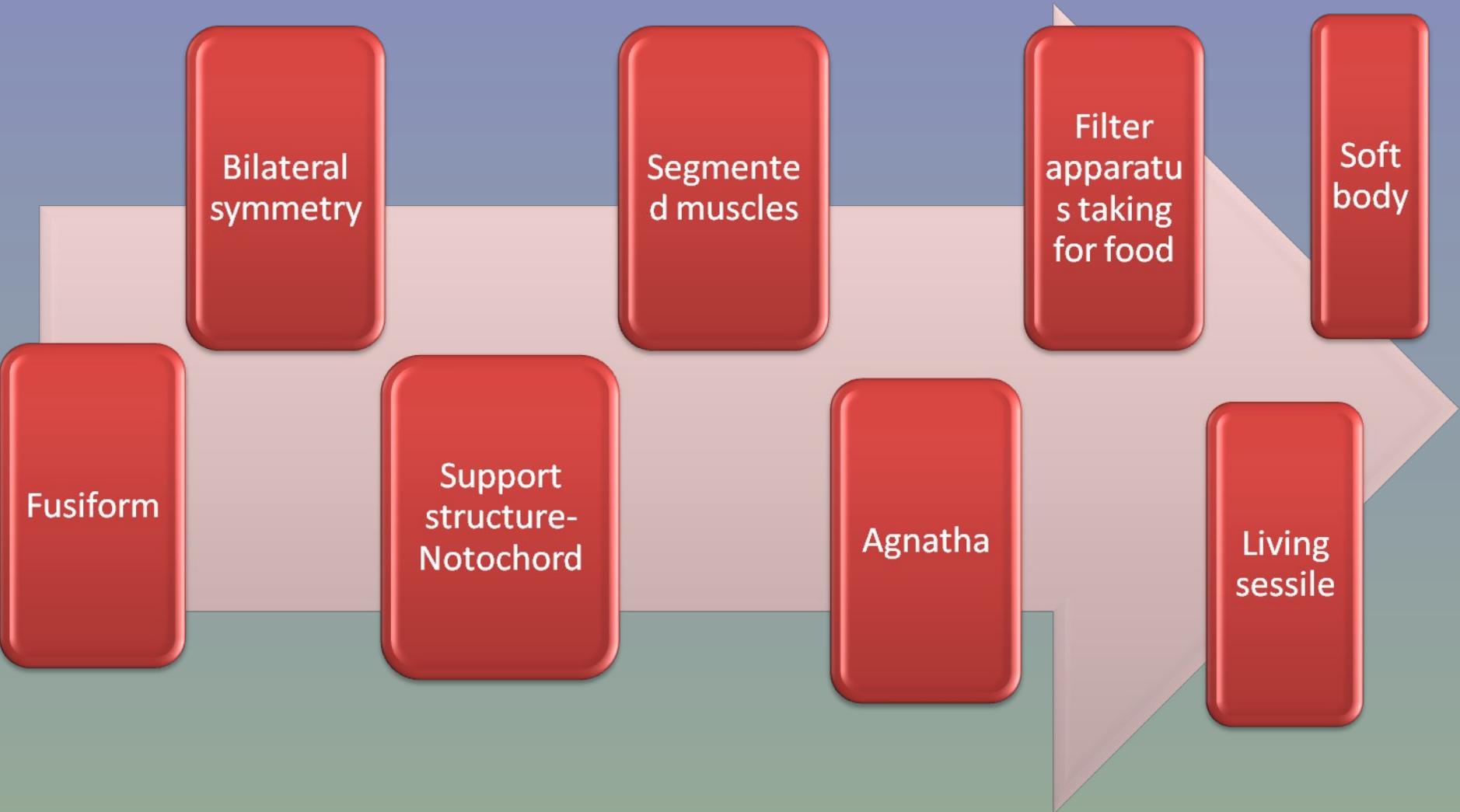
# ANCESTRY AND EVOLUTION OF CHORDATES

Chordata phylum surely developed from invertebrates

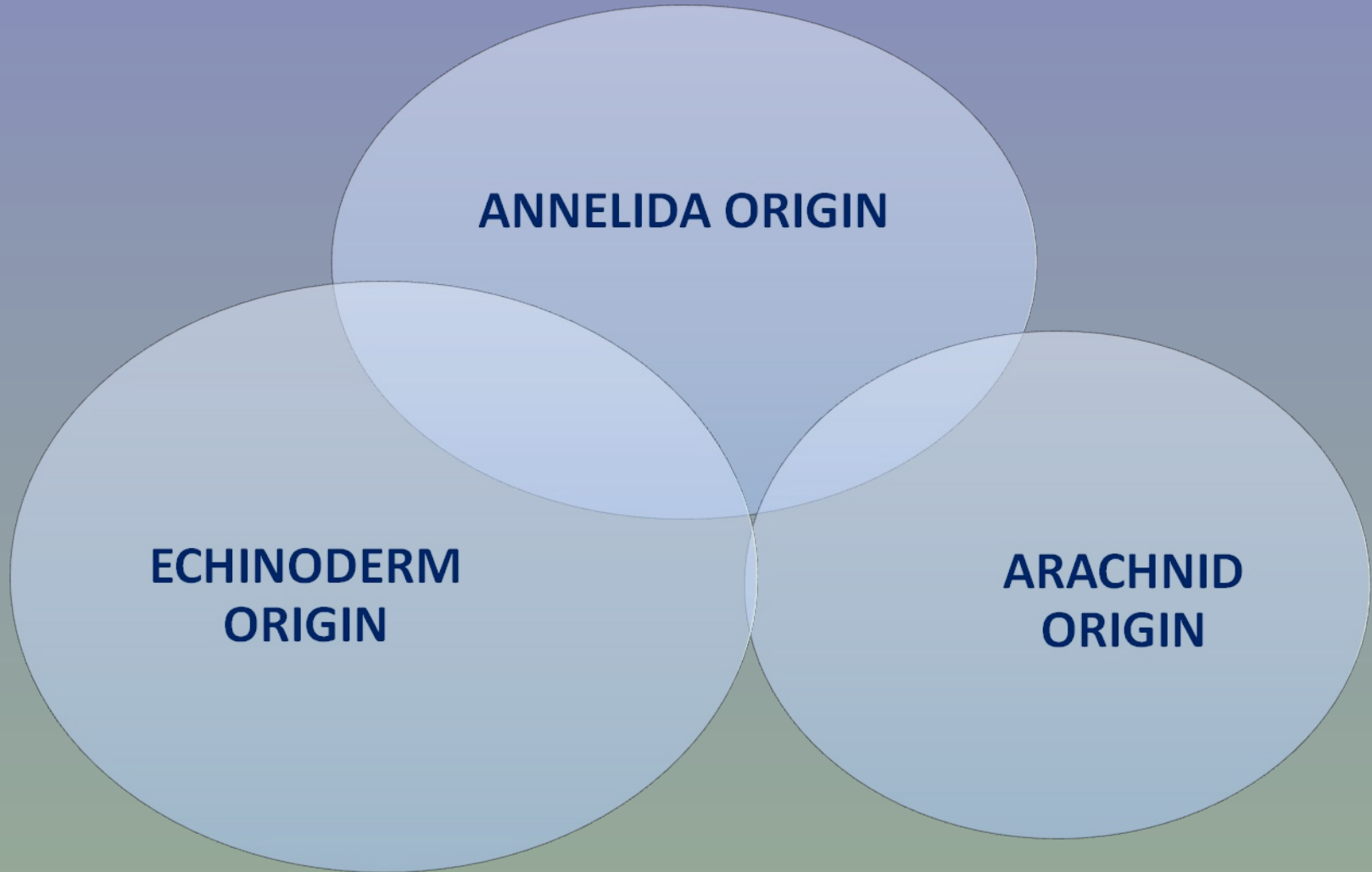
**BUT  
THERE ARE NO FOSSILS TO CLEAR UP  
THE EVOLUTION OF CHORDATA**

Several theories were put forward to clarify the ancestor of Chordate

Considering the today's Primitive Chordate, the ancestor of Chordata can has following characteristics:



# THE MOST IMPORTANT THEORIES



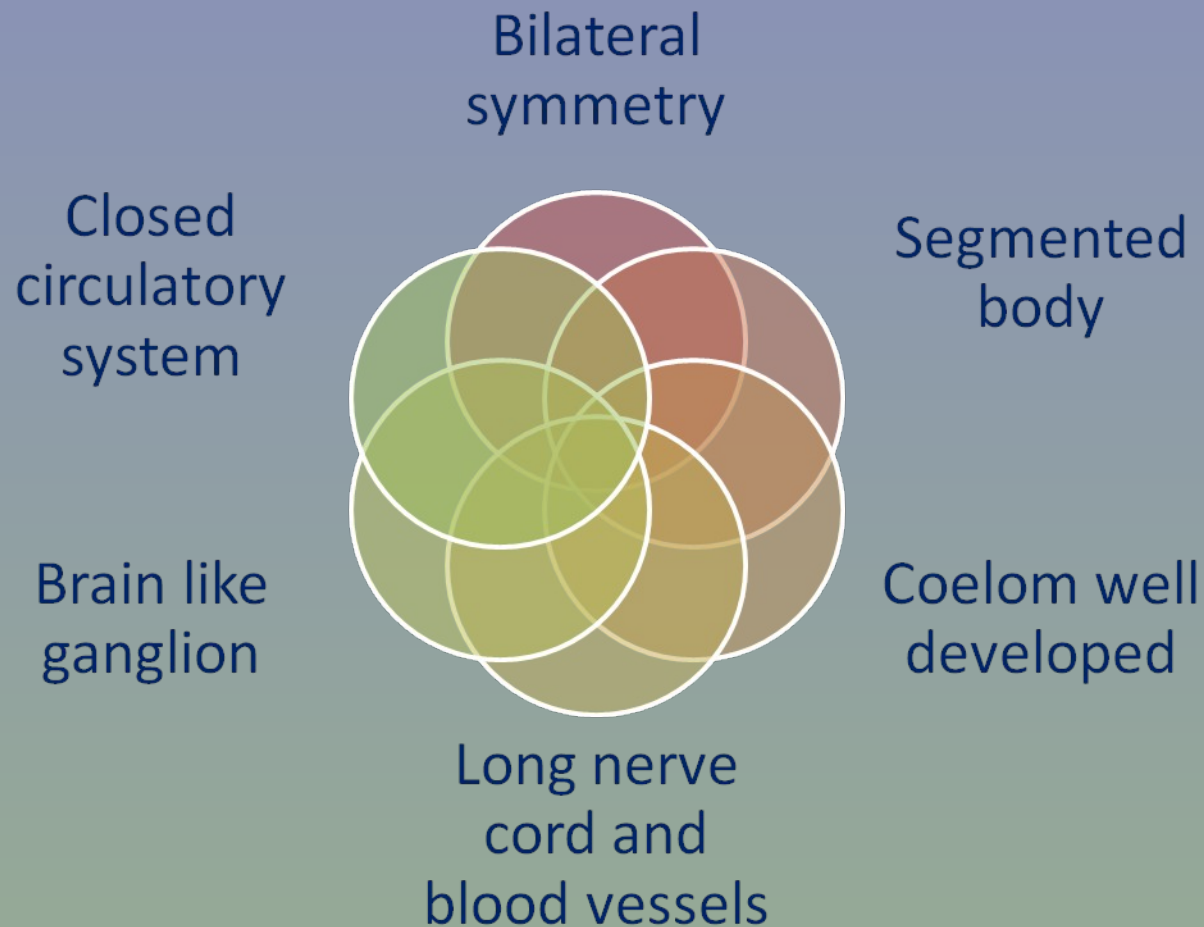
**ANNELIDA ORIGIN**

**ECHINODERM  
ORIGIN**

**ARACHNID  
ORIGIN**

# ANNELID ORIGIN

## SIMILARITIES WITH THE CHORDATE



## ANNELID ORIGIN

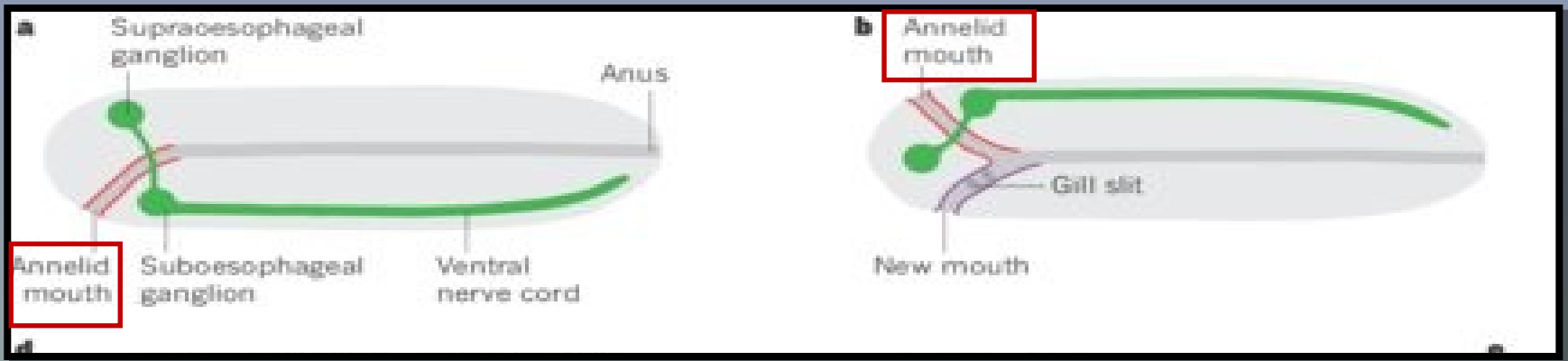
### DIFFERENCES WITH THE CHORDATE

- 1. Annelid:** Segmentation is seen in **all tissues and organs from outside of the body to the digestive tract**  
**Chordata:** Segmentation is seen in **certain tissues such as muscle.**
- 2. Annelid:** Nerve cord is **not tubular** and extends in **ventral**  
**Chordata:** Nerve cord is **tubular** and extends in **dorsal**

Some scientist suggested that that chordates may be an inverted annelid (torsion)

Had the reversal occurred, the ventral mouth should have passed through the dorsal.

However, the mouth of the chordate is also in the ventral.



Besides;  
Lack of **notochord** and **gill slit**  
**Schizocoel type** coelom

**REJECTED**

## ARACHNID ORIGIN

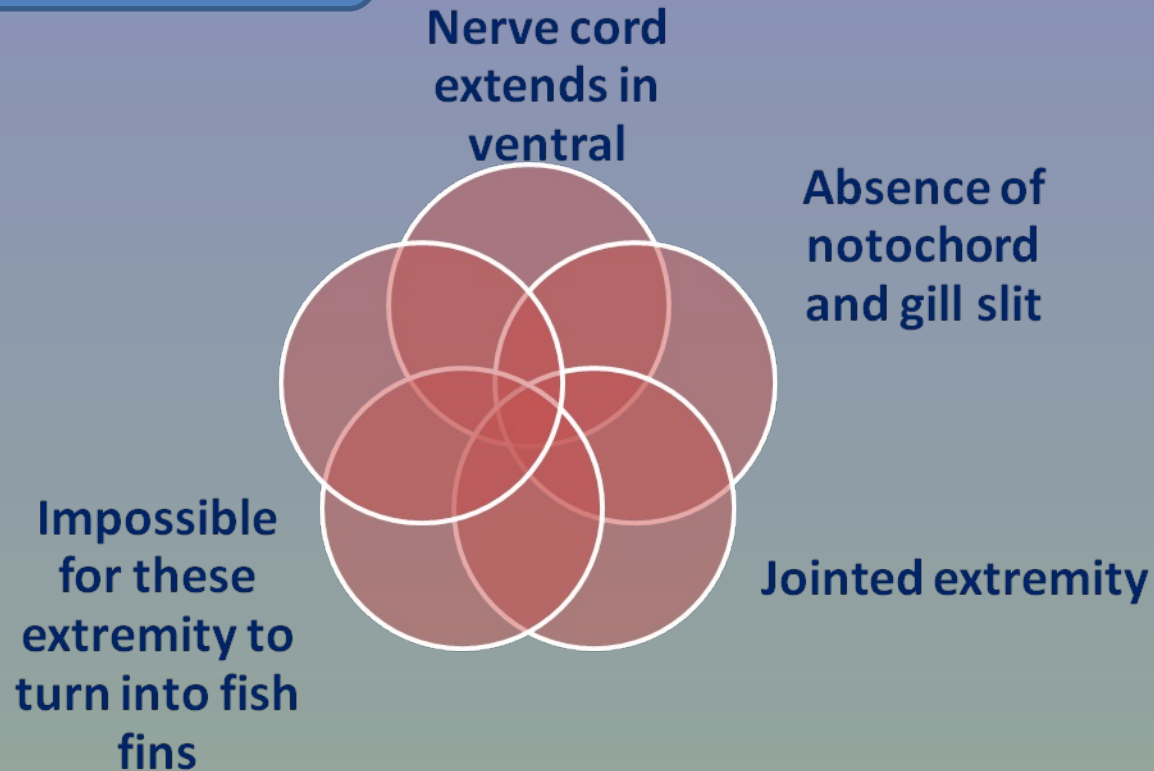
Arthropoda, including the Arachnida class, is believed to originate from an annelid-like worm.

It has been suggested that Eurypterid (member of Arthropoda) which lived in Paleozoic may be the ancestor of Chordata due to the chitin exoskeleton

**SIMILARITY:** The fossil Ostracoderm fish that lived in Ordovician and Devonian had the dermal armor skeleton

# ARACHNID ORIGIN

## DIFFERENCES WITH THE CHORDATE



**REJECTED**



# ECHINODERM ORIGIN

➤ The theory was given by Johannes Muller (1860) and it is based on the comparative studies of **larval stages of echinoderms and hemichordates.**

Auricularia  
Larvae  
Echinoderm

**Tornaria Larvae**  
**Hemichordata**

Bipinnaria  
Larvae  
Echinoderm

The number of  
chambers in the  
coelom is equal.

Dipleurula  
Larvae  
Echinoderm

# ECHINODERM ORIGIN

**ADMITTED**

Blastomeres  
have equal  
potential

Mezoderm origin  
skeleton

Deutorostomia

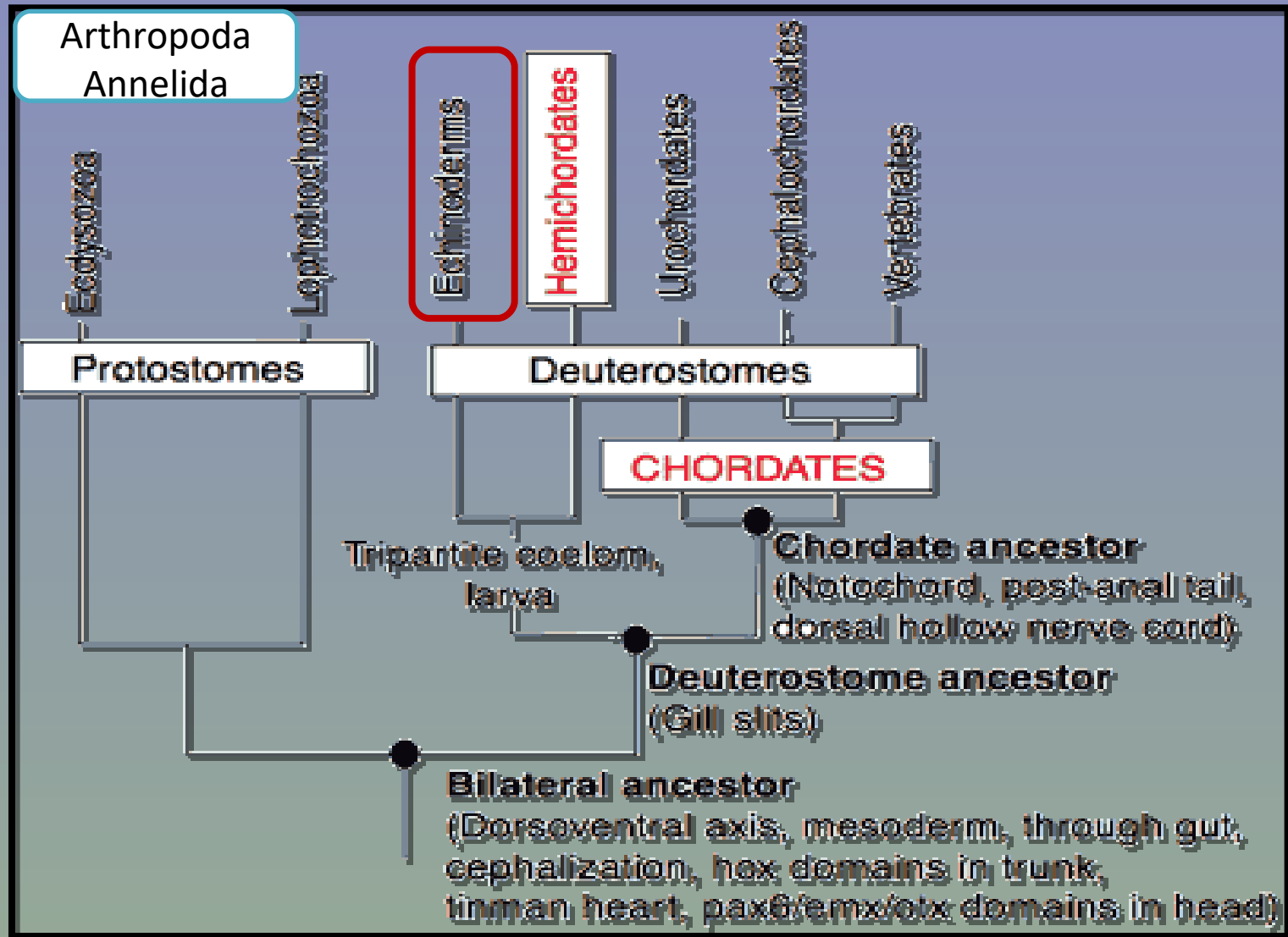
Biochemical  
similarity

(Blood serum;  
muscle  
chemistry)

Coeloms are  
enterocoel



# ANCESTRY AND EVOLUTION OF CHORDATES



# CAMBRIAN CHORDATES

*Pikaia* is the best known early chordates which looks little like an *Amphioxus*

It is a fact that vertebrates and primitive chordates do not form directly from Echinoderm.

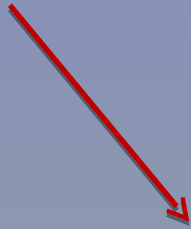
Ancestor of  
Echinoderm

Ancestor of  
Chordata

**Living in the sea - Filter Feeding -Sessile**

The gill slits (for respiration) formed as a result of the development of the filter-feeding (for taking food) system.

Primitive Echinoderm + Pterobranchia (Hemichordata)



**Ancestor of Chordata**

Collecting their food with their feather like structure (arm-feeder)

Primitive

Sessil

Free –living form  Degenerative metamorphosis


Lost many of its  
chordate characteristics  
Adult Tunicata



Metamorphosis is not seen;  
Free-living larvae **(protect  
chordata features)** ;

**Neoteny**

Migrating to the entrance of the  
river

Migrating to the  
upstream of the  
river 

Cyclostomata

**To adapt to the freshwater;**

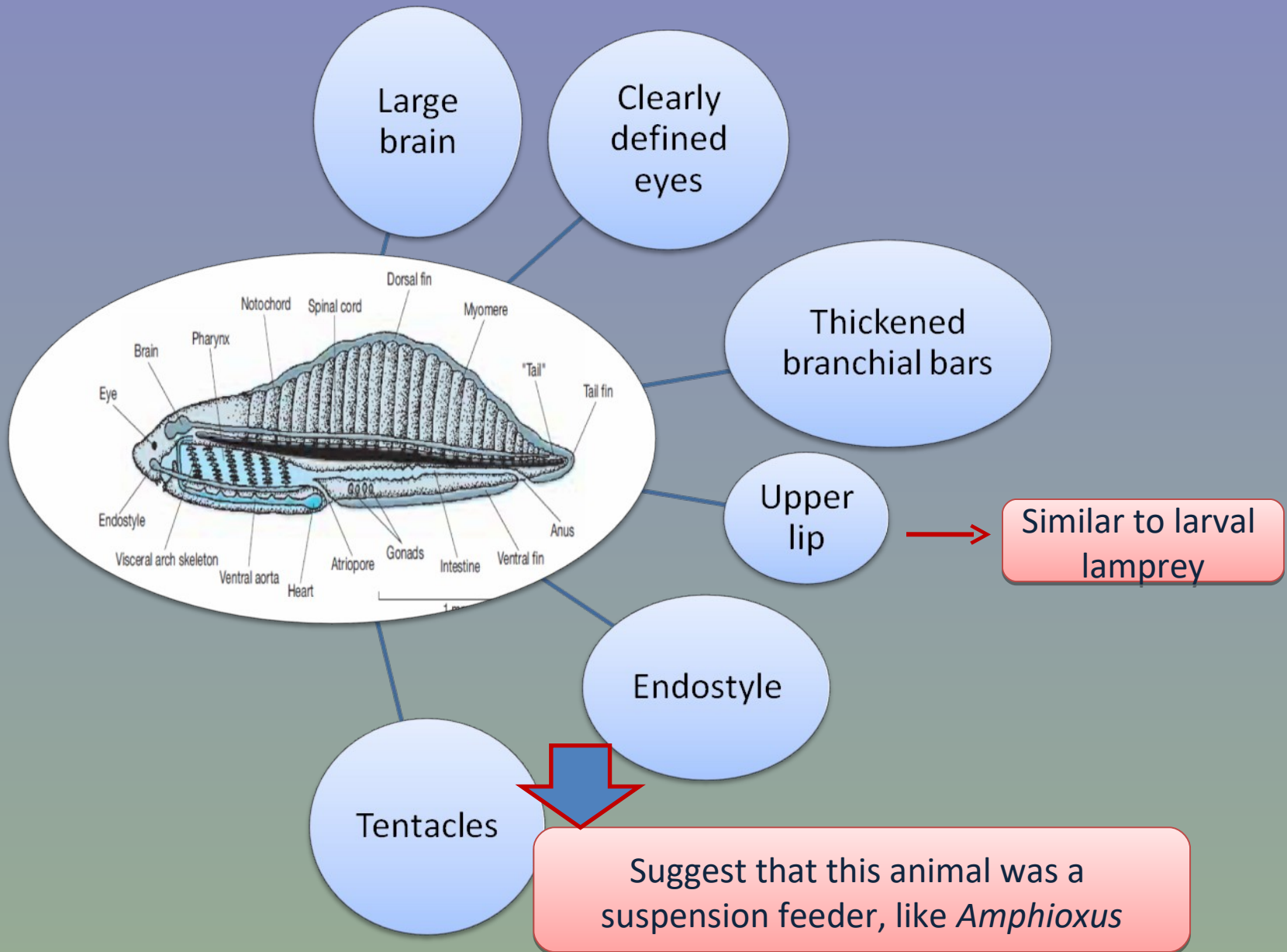
- Developed strong muscle for movement
- Developed kidney for excretion
- Developed sense organs
- Increased body size

Recently, spectacular fossils of soft-bodied animals have been found in the Early Cambrian Chengjiang formation in Southern China

The Chengjiang deposit includes **the earliest known true vertebrates** and **some challenging fossils that may be early chordates**

***Haikouella*** is the most vertebrate-like member of the Chengjiang Fauna

# The Chordate Features of *Haikouella*





# SUB-SYSTEMATICS GROUPS OF CHORDATA

## PHYLUM: CHORDATA

### I. GROUP: ACRANIA – PROTOCHORDATA

#### SUBPHYLUM: UROCHORDATA (TUNICATA)

CLASS: Thaliacea

#### SUBPHYLUM : CEPHALOCHORDATA

CLASS: Leptocardia

### II. GROUP: CRANIATA

#### SUBPHYLUM: VERTEBRATA

##### SUPER CLASS: PISCES

CLASS: Myxini

Cyclostomata  
Jawless Fishes

CLASS: Petromyzontida

CLASS: Chondrichthyes

CLASS: Actinopterygii

Osteichthyes

CLASS: Sarcopterygii

##### SUPER CLASS: TETRAPODA

CLASS: Amphibia

CLASS: Reptilia

CLASS: Aves

CLASS: Mammalia

# Combining Vertebrate Animal Classes in Different Groups

