Phylum Chordata

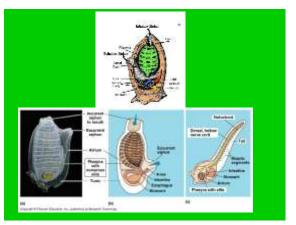
• pharyngeal slits - a series of openings that connect the inside of the throat to the outside of the "neck". These are often, but not always, used as gills. • dorsal nerve cord - a bundle of nerve fibers which runs down the "back". It connects the brain with the lateral muscles and other organs.

• notochord - cartilaginous rod running underneath, and supporting, the nerve cord.

• **post-anal tail** - an extension of the body past the anal opening.







Cephalachordata



Vertebrata

- they have a bony or cartilaginous skeleton
- the notochord is replaced by a series of vertebrae (from which this group derives its name) and through which the nerve cord passes
- at the front of the animal the brain and some sense organs are protected by a bony cranium (skull)
- the brain is complex and formed of three recognisable parts.

