

# Dem Bones



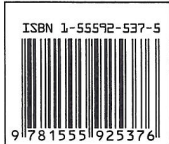
by Bob Barner

Ages 5-8

★ PARENT'S CHOICE HONOR BOOK

A skeleton band supplies words and music to the well-known song based on a much-loved African-American spiritual. Children will enjoy learning about the human body and having their funny bones tickled at the same time. This production has been scientifically proven to be a rousing success. We dare you to remain seated! Music by Raul Malo. Directed by Gary McGivney.

*Human Body, Humor, Science, Skeletons, Music*



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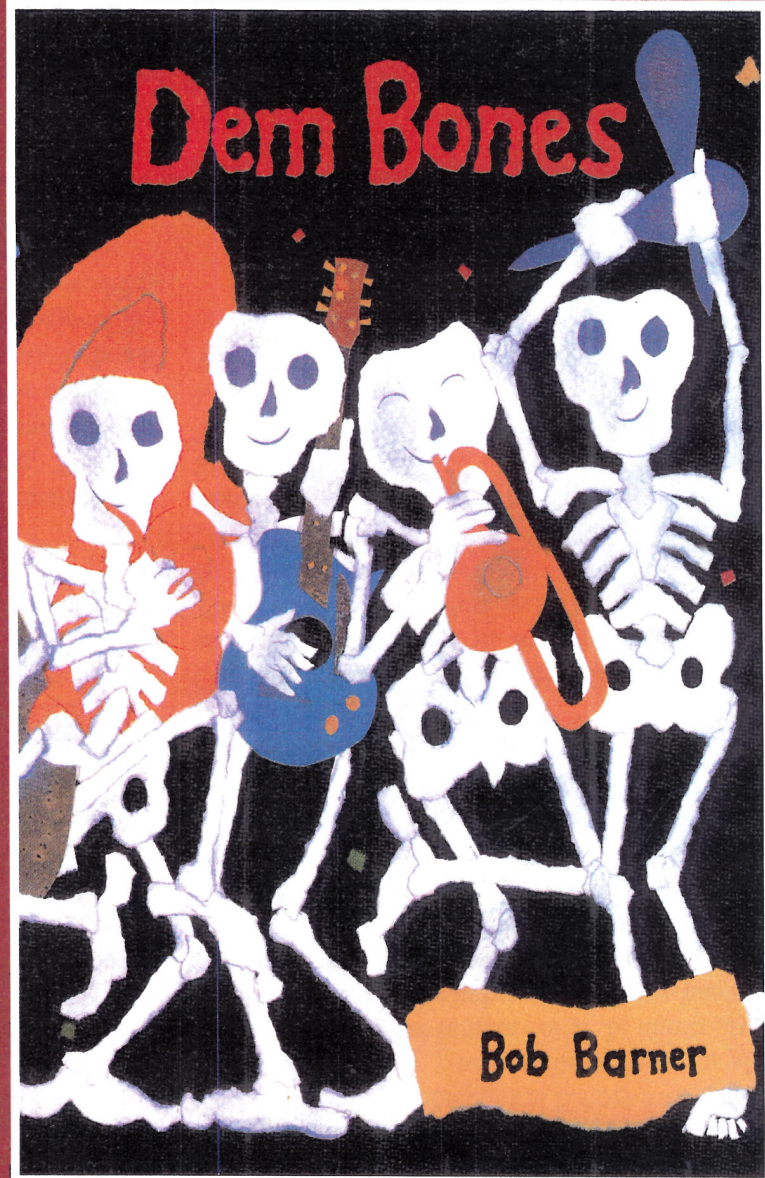
## Dem Bones

by Bob Barner (Chronicle)

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# DEM BONES

## Dem Bones

by Bob Barner

Themes: The Human Body, Music

Grade Level: K-3

Running Time: 8 minutes

## SUMMARY

This colorful and musical video combines the catchy tune of a traditional African American spiritual with interesting facts about the bones in the human body.. The dancing, instrument-playing skeletons will make kids want to sing along and shake their own bones!

## OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn the names and locations of major bones in the human body.
- Students will be able to identify specific bones in their own bodies as well as on a 3-D or 2-D model of a skeleton or on a picture of a skeleton.
- Students will learn the song, “Dem Bones,” to help them remember how the bones in the skeleton are connected.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Teach the song, “Dem Bones,” to the students. Sing it along with the film several times, touching the different parts of the body that the song refers to.

Brainstorm the function of different bones with students. Guiding questions:

- What is a skeleton? Why do we need one?
- What is the job of the head bone/foot

bone/backbone etc.?

- Are there any animals without bones? What are they like?
- Have you ever broken a bone? What happened?

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Photocopy a picture of a skeleton and give one to each student. Have students cut out the skeletons and reassemble them in a funny or interesting posture. Remind students how the skeletons in the video were in different positions with instruments. Have students cut out “props” for their skeletons from construction paper. Then, students can illustrate a setting around their skeleton figures. As an extension, students can label the different bones on their skeletons. Display their work in the hall or classroom.

Bring in different kinds of percussion instruments for students to play along with the song, “Dem Bones.” Create a skeleton that can be put together on a felt board. As the class sings, have one or two students find and put the bones onto the board as they are named. This activity will be especially helpful for English Language Learners to provide an audio, visual, and physical connection to the names and locations of the different bones.

Examine real bones. Contact your local nature conservation organization or high school for bone collections from local wildlife that can be brought into the classroom for demonstration and discussion. Children themselves may have found and

saved bones from a leftover roast or turkey that they could bring in to share. In more urban settings, take a trip to the natural history museum to see dinosaur bones. Some of these museums also have sections on the human body. In university towns, sometimes the university museum has a bone collection. Talk with students about how animal bones can serve the same functions as human bones. Discuss how different animals may have different bones that others don’t have, to help them adapt to their lifestyle or environment.

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The Foolish Frog by Pete and Charles Seeger, ill. by Miloslav Jagr  
One Was Johnny by Maurice Sendak  
There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly by Simms Taback  
This Land is Your Land by Woody Guthrie, ill. by Kathy Jakobsen  
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