

- All vertebrates are chordates, but all chordates are not vertebrates.
- Notochord is replaced by vertebral column in adult.
- Sub-phylum vertebrata is divided into two divisions called **Agnatha** (which lacks jaws) and **Gnathostomata** (which bears jaw).
- The division **Agnatha** contains a single class called **Cyclostomata**.

Class- Cyclostomata

- They are ectoparasites on fishes.
- Jaws are absent.
- Example: *Petromyzon*
- The division **Gnathostomata** is divided into two super classes called **Pisces** (which bear fins) and class **tetrapoda** (that bear limbs).
- The super class Pisces contains two classes – **Chondrichthyes** and **Osteichthyes**.

Class- Chondrichthyes

- Skeleton is cartilaginous.
- Operculum is absent.
- Notochord is persistent.
- Air bladder is absent.
- Heart is two-chambered.
- Poikilothermous i.e., cold blooded animals
- Skin is covered by placoid scales.
- Fertilization is internal.
- Mostly viviparous
- Example: *Scoliodon*

Class- Osteichthyes

- Skeleton is bony.
- Operculum is present.
- Air bladder is present.

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