Name _____

Diverse Skeleton: Exploring the Different Types of Bones

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The patella (kneecap) is a sesamoid bone located within the tendon of the quadriceps muscle. It enhances the function of the quadriceps by increasing the leverage during activities like running and jumping. Additionally, it protects the knee joint by acting as a barrier against excessive forces and reducing friction within the tendon.
2. Irregular bones in the human skeleton include the vertebrae of the spine, the facial bones (e.g., jawbone), and the hip bones (pelvic girdle). Vertebrae protect the spinal cord and allow for flexibility, facial bones provide structure to the face, and hip bones support the trunk and protect abdominal organs.

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