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Hands-on, Eyes-off Learning

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Hands-On, Eyes-Off Learning Best Teaching Practices Expo 2020

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Teaching Practice

Level 1 (Easy)

Identify a bone solely by touch.

Level 2 (Intermediate)

Locate a distinct bony landmark.

Example: Locate the obturator foramen of the os coxae.

Bonus: What is the definition of foramen?

Level 3 (Challenging)

Locate a specific bony surface.

Example: Locate the posterior side of the scapula.

Level 4 (Advanced)

Locate a subtle bony landmark.

Example: Locate the intertubercular groove of the humerus.

Main Theory

This activity engages students and injects fun into learning. Students must apply knowledge previously learned in written and picture forms to identify bones and bony landmarks by touch. Further, this activity pushes students to utilize their two-dimensional understanding of anatomical structures to locate features on three-dimensional models. Such application by students directly embodies a primary learning objective of KIN 223 and 224 – student engagement.

How We Do It

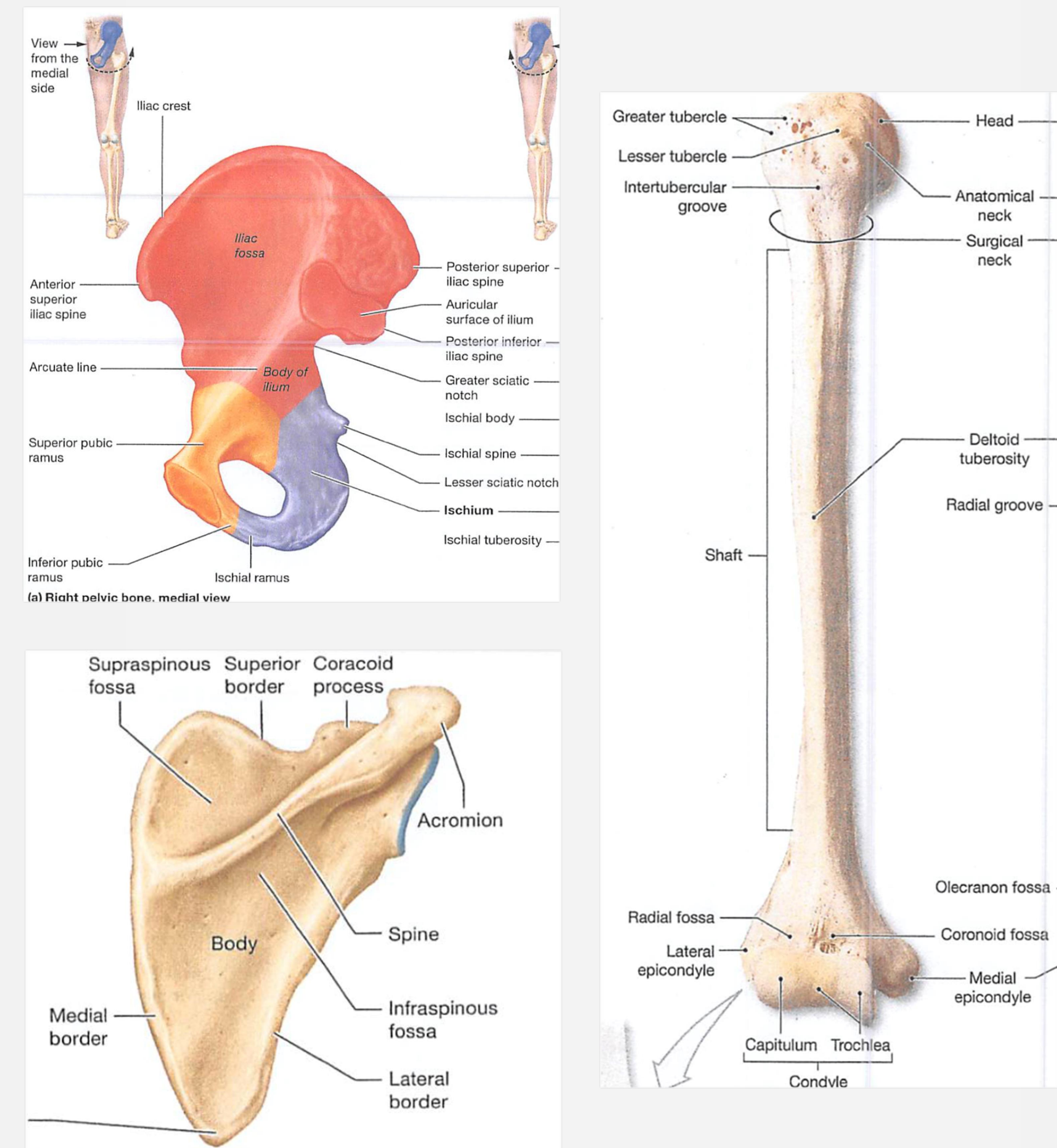
Students begin by studying a small set of pictures of bones. They then place their hand(s) through a cutout in a box, the contents of which are concealed by a curtain. Without being able to see inside the box, students must identify which bone and bony landmarks they are palpating. By standing opposite to the participating students, observers can watch the them manipulate the bone, think critically, and explain their thinking process upon answering the question.

Benefits to Students

While learning traditionally relies predominantly on sight and hearing, this activity incorporates a third physiological sense, touch, making it truly hands-on. Multiple exposures, particularly when they are novel, facilitate stronger learning and a comprehensive understanding of material. Tactile learning is a valuable tool that offers a new connection with anatomy while promoting student engagement and physically-active learning.

Incentives

It is our hope that students will naturally wish to participate due to the originality of this activity. For successfully identifying bones and bony landmarks, students will earn increasingly valuable prizes (e.g. mini candies, full-size candy bars, anatomy pins).



References

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Wood, Michael G. (2019, Fall). *Laboratory manual for anatomy and physiology: Custom edition for University of Nevada, Las Vegas*. KIN 223 lab manual. New York, NY: Pearson Education, Inc.

More Resources:

