1. Chordates are characterized by a notochord (a structure of cartilage that provides structure), a hollow dorsal (along the back), nerve cord, and pharyngeal (throat) slits (or pouches).

2. Tunicates have a notochord and a dorsal nerve cord in the larval stage, and pharyngeal slits that continue into adulthood. Lanceletes have a notochord, dorsal nerve cord and a definite head, and they begin to show segmentation in the arrangement of their nerves and muscles.