

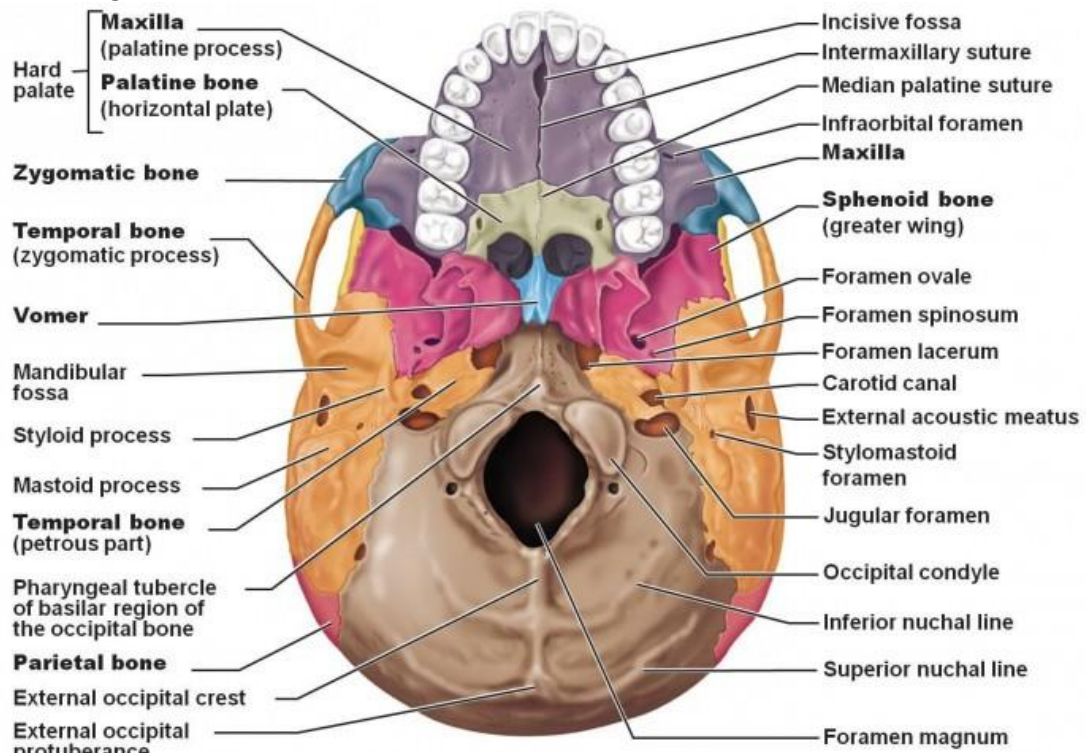
Inferior View Of Skull

*the anterior part of this aspect of skull is seen to be formed by the **hard palate**. The **palatal process of the maxilla and horizontal plate of the palatine bones** can be identified . in the midline anteriorly is the **incisive fossa & foramen** . **posterolaterlly** are **greater & lesser palatine foramina**. Above the posterior edge of the hard palate are the **choanae**(posterior nasal apertures) . these are separated from each other by the posterior margin of the **vomer** & bounded laterally by the medial pterygoid plate of sphenoid bone . the inferior end of the **medial pterygoid plate** is prolonged as a curved spike of bone , the pterygoid **hamulus**. the superior end widens to form the **scaphoid fossa** . posterolateral to the lateral pterygoid plate the greater wing of the sphenoid is pieced by the large **foramen ovale & small foramen spinosum** . posterolateral to the foramen spinosum is spine **of the sphenoid** . Above the medial border of the scaphoid fossa , the sphenoid bone is pierced by **pterygoid canal** . Behind the spine of the sphenoid , in the interval between the greater wing of the sphenoid and the petrous part of the temporal bone , there is a groove for the cartilaginous part of the **auditory tube**. The opening of the bony part of the tube can be identified. The **mandibular fossa** of the temporal bone & the **articular tubercle** form the upper articular surfaces for the temporomandibular joint . separating the mandibular fossa from the tympanic plate posteriorly is the **squamotympanic fissure**, through the medial end of which (petrotympanic fissure) the chorda tympani exits from the tympanic cavity .The **styloid process** of the temporal bone projects downward & forward from its inferior aspect. The opening of the **carotid canal** can be seen on the inferior surface of the petous part of the temporal bone .The medial end of the petrous part of the temporal bone is irregular & , together with the basilar part of the occipital bone and the greater wing of the sphenoid , forms the **foramen lacerum**, during life , the foramen lacerum is closed with fibrous tissue, & only a few very small vessels pass through this foramen from the cavity of the skull to the exterior.The **tympanic plate** which forms part of the temporal bone , is C shape on section and forms the bony part of the **external auditory***

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meatus . while examining this region , identify the **supra-meatal crest** on the temporal bone , the **suprameatal triangle** ,& the **suprameatal spine**.in the interval between the styloid & mastoid processes , the **stylomastoid foramen** can be seen . medial to the styloid process , the petrous part of temporal bone has a deep notch , which , together with a shallower notch on the occipital bone , forms the jugular foramen . behind the posterior apertures of the nose & in front of the foramen magnum are the sphenoid bone and the basilar part of the occipital bone . the **pharyngeal tubercle is a small** prominence on the undersurface of the basilar part of the occipital bone in the midline . the **occipital condyles** should be identified they articulate with the superior aspect of the lateral mass of the atlas. superior to the summit of the occipital condyle is the **hypoglossal canal** for transmission of the hypoglossal nerve. this must not be confused with a small canal that is some time present behind the occipital condyle , called the **condylar canal**. if present transmit an emissary vein . posterior to the foramen magnum in the midline is the **external occipital crest** , which runs upward & backward to the external occipital protuberance . The **inferior & superior nuchal lines** should be identified as they curve laterally on each side.

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(a) Inferior view of the skull (mandible removed)