

The body of C2 (axis) consists of partly fused centra of C1 (atlas) and C2 and a rudimentary intervertebral disc between. A deep depression on each side of the anterior surface gives attachment to longus colli. The inferiorly projecting anterior border gives attachment to the **anterior longitudinal ligament**, whereas the flat or slightly concave posterior surface gives attachment to the posterior longitudinal ligament, the deep and superficial laminae of the tectorial membrane and the **inferior band of the cruciform ligament** (from the lower border of the transverse band of the cruciform ligament - transverse ligament of atlas). The inferior surface has a thin covering of hyaline cartilage, the 'end-plate', to which the adjacent intervertebral disc is attached.