

Centre of the Cell's 'STEM Pod' Challenge

The Skin

Why is our skin important?

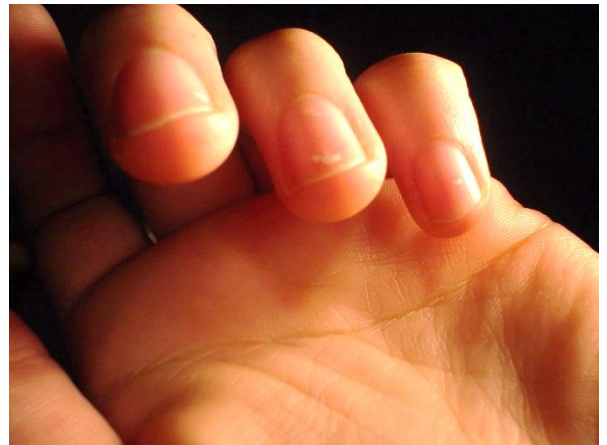
Our skin is a protective barrier which protects our bodies from things that are harmful in the environment around us.

Our skin is also very important in giving us our sense of touch - imagine if you weren't able to feel anything!

Without our skin, we would have nothing to keep all our organs, muscles and bones inside our body.

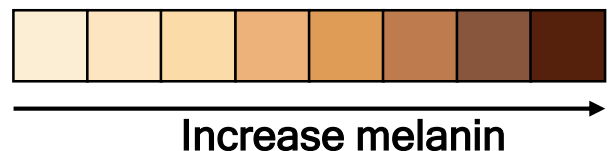
What is Eczema?

It's a condition which results in patches of dry, itchy skin. It's caused by special skin cells which overreact and work too hard when they come into contact with something that irritates them. Eczema is not contagious, so no one can catch it from you, and you can't catch it from anyone.



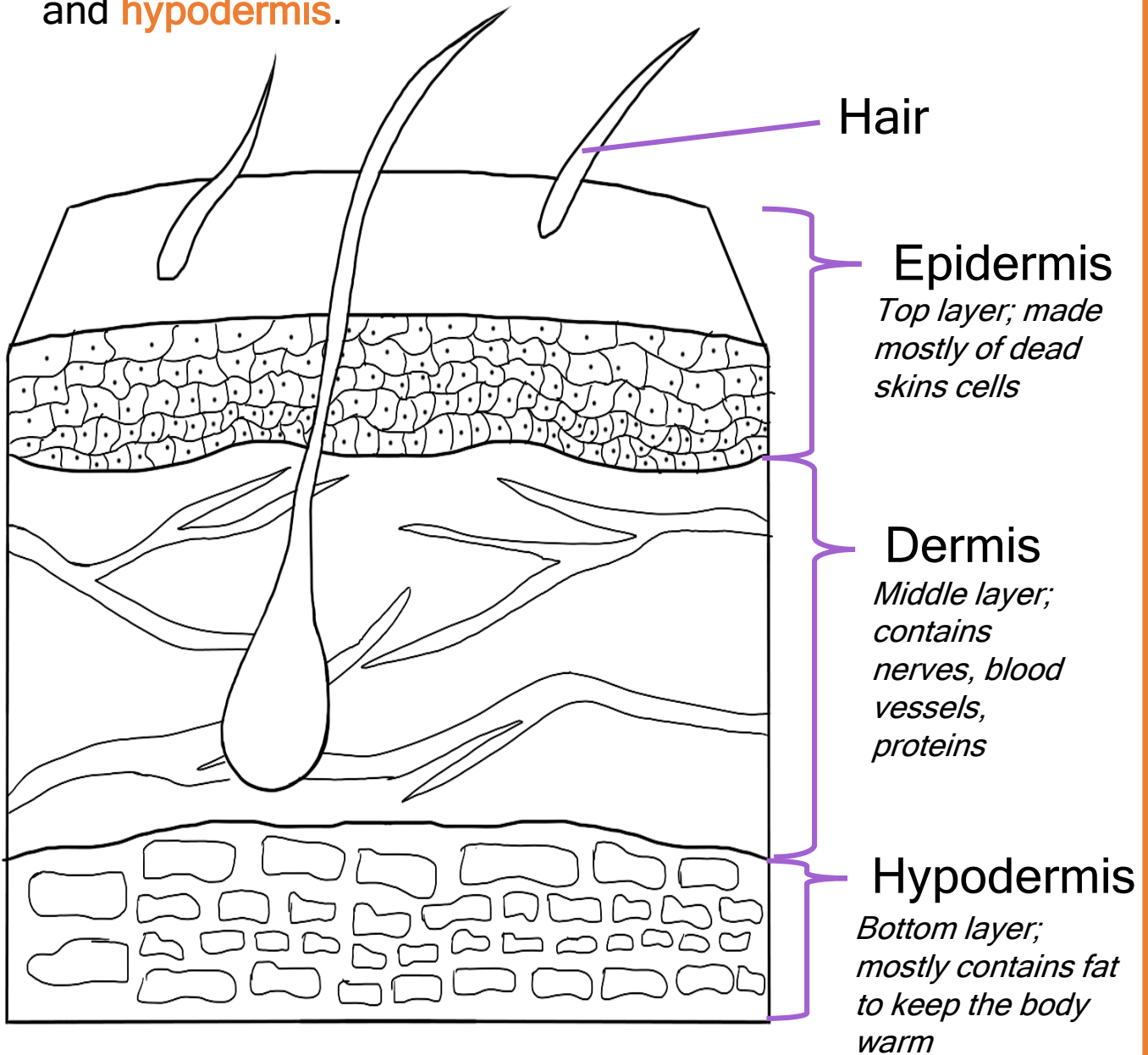
Why do people have different skin colours?

It's all because of melanin! Melanin is a pigment which is produced inside of our skin cells. The more melanin you have, the darker your skin will appear.



The Structure of the Skin

The skin is made up of 3 layers; the **epidermis**, **dermis**, and **hypodermis**.



You can print out this worksheet, or trace the image to colour in the skin!

Let us know how your
challenge goes on social media
@CentreoftheCell!

Skin Design Activity

In this activity you will need to put your creative hats on because you will be designing your own skin!

What you will need:

Paper, pencil, scissors, and any other art material you want!. You can use paint, colouring pencils, crayons, glitter etc.

Instructions:

1. Using your pencil, draw around your hand on a piece of paper.
2. Colour in your hand - the colour can be your skin tone, or it can be any other colour you want.
3. Study the palm of your hand - what can you see? Draw all of the lines you can see onto your paper hand. If you look even more closely at your hand, you can see your fingerprint - try drawing your fingerprint onto your paper hand too.
4. If you're feeling even more creative, you can add designs to your hand using your art materials.
5. When you're finished designing, cut out the hand from the paper!



Did you know...

Everyone has a unique fingerprint. This means no one will have a fingerprint that looks like yours - even if you're a twin! The reason our fingerprints are unique is a combination between our genes and our environment.

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