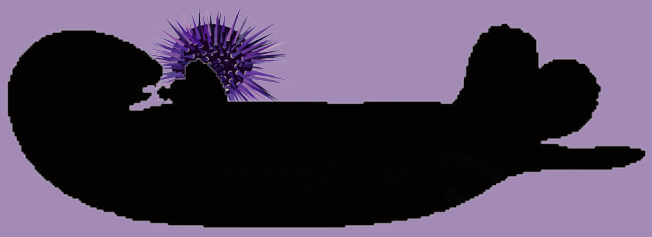
Did *you* know?

.... Some sea otters develop purple bone and teeth staining after many years of consuming sea urchins.

This phenomenon is known as ***echinochrome staining***.

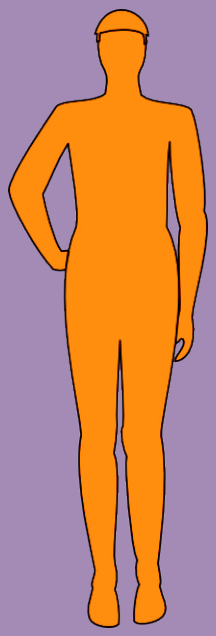
Left: Skull with echinochrome staining. Right: Skull with no staining.

Otters that ***specialize*** in ***purple sea urchins*** accumulate ***purple pigment*** in their ***teeth and bones*** over time.



Echinochrome ranges from 1 or 2 stained teeth to the entire skeleton appearing purple.

Eating **too many carrots** can create a similar effect in humans.



Carrots contain pigments called ***carotenoids***. When this pigment biulds up, your skin can turn a yellow-orange shade.

Physicians call the condition "***carotenemia***."

Support California's sea otters by making a voluntary contribution on Line 410 of your state income tax return.

Do it ***fur*** the otters, check it off!

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