

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.

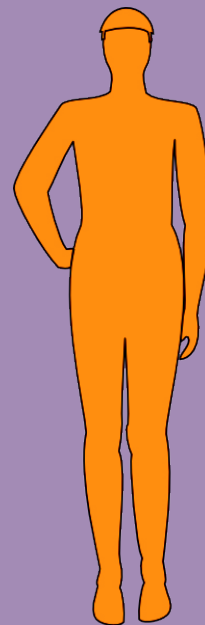


Otters that *specialize* in *purple sea urchins* accumulate *purple pigment* in their *teeth and bones* over time.



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 builds up, your skin can turn a yellow-orange shade.

Physicians call the condition "*carotenemia*."