

# Body Armor: Our Skin



Skin is the body's outer armor. Dermatologists are on the front lines to protect our skin and keep it healthy. They treat children and adults, and even perform surgery. Increase your knowledge about skin conditions and the doctors who treat them.

Visit the American Academy of Dermatology's "A to Z Diseases" under Diseases and Conditions at [aad.org/public](http://aad.org/public) to answer the questions below.

**1** Skin is your body's largest organ. What role does it play? List at least two roles and explain their importance.

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**2** What does the epidermis (the outermost layer of skin) tell doctors about the health of the body? Name two inflammatory diseases that can show up on the epidermis.

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**3** Research and describe two skin diseases or conditions. Write your notes. On the back of this sheet, sketch how they appear on the skin.

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**4** What is melanin? How does melanin affect the appearance of the skin? How might it affect how skin diseases appear on different skin tones?

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**5 True or False:** Tanning beds protect skin from skin cancer by using artificial sunlight. Explain your reasoning.

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**6 True or False:** The sun's reflection on water, snow, and sand can increase the chance of sunburn.

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**7** ABCDE is an acronym for asymmetry, border, color, diameter, and evolving. How do dermatologists use the ABCDE acronym?

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Find out more about being a medical expert in skin, hair, and nails at [aad.org](http://aad.org).

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