

## CHAPTER- 13

### The Skin

All living beings have an outer covering on their body, called skin. It is one of our sense organs and hence is sensitive to touch. We immediately get to know if a thorn pricks our feet. Even if somebody touches us, we can feel it.

What else does our skin help us to feel. Fill up the table below:

What happens?	You feel it or not?
If a fly sits on your body	-----
when wind blows	-----
When it is dry/wet	-----
If a thorn pricks you	-----
When it is hot/cold	-----
When you are hungry/thirsty	-----
If a thing is circular or square	-----
When it is light or dark	-----
Colours	-----
Whether smooth/rough	-----
Whether soft/hard	-----

**What problems would you have to face, if there is no skin?**

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**Is the skin on the various parts of the body equally sensitive to touch?**

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## Experiment

Let's do an experiment. For this, you'll require 3-4 friends Blindfold one of your friend and ask him/her to put his/her feet on a white sheet. Now sketch the outline of his feet. Now ask him to sit with his legs stretched out so that his sole could be seen in the front. Now touch the various places of his sole with a pointed leaf. Take care that you press the leaf at different points with equal intensity. The blindfold must say 'yes' whenever he experiences touch. Ask another friend to keep marking the pressed points on the white sheet. Repeat it all over the sole. Whenever he does not experience touch, mark that area on the sheet with a 'x'.



**Which part of the sole is more sensitive to touch?**

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**Which part of the sole is not sensitive to touch?**

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### **Skin and sweat**

An important function of the skin is to throw out waste water in the form of sweat.

**In which part of your body do you sweat more?**

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**When do you sweat more?**

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**How is sweat useful for the body? Discuss this with your teacher.**

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### **Our Skin**

On what part of the body do you have more hair?

Do all creatures have hair on their body?

**Write names of two creatures who have hair on their body?**

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**Creatures who have a hard covering on their skin.**

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**Creatures whose skin is covered with feathers.**

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## Creatures who have scales on their skin.

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You must have seen a snail. When it moves, it takes out its body from its shell. As soon as it feels danger, it hides itself in its shell.

Some creatures have a lot of hair on their body. You must have seen a mongoose. It has a thick covering of hair all over its body.

### Thorny skin

In the picture given, you can see a porcupine. It has a thick covering of spine which stand erect when it senses danger.

**How are the spines on a porcupine's body useful to it? Find out.**

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Porcupine (Shahi)

### Falling skin+

You must have seen feathers falling off from the birds. If you want, you can collect the different features of the birds.

**Have you ever seen a snake's skin? Is there any other animal who shed its skin?**

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### Skin of animals

Some animals are killed for their hide or outer skin to make shoes, purses, jackets etc. After the death of these animals their hide are used.

**Find out the names of animals killed for their skin.**

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There must be people making leather goods in your village/town. Find out, what things they make.

### **Hunting of animals**

Many animals like snakes, peacocks, cats, rhinos are killed for their skin, despite a ban on their killing. Their skin is used for making different items.

Think if the use of things made of leather is stopped then do you think the killing of animals will be lessened? Which other methods are there which can stop killing of animals.

### **Animals that blend with the colour of nature**

The skin of some creatures match their surrounding. Look for such animals that are not easily seen.



**A caterpillar on a leaf**



**A hidden frog**

**How is it useful for the animals?**

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### **Our body is a home of many creatures**

**List the different ways to kill lice.**

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You must have seen dandruff on your scalp. While combing your hair you must have seen white shreds falling off. This is dandruff. Because of dandruff, the upper surfaces of the skin of our scalp dries off and start falling.

How is dandruff harmful to our hair? Find from your elders at home.

Here are other micro organisms that live on our skin. They cannot be seen with our naked eyes. They are found in our nails and the tiny pores of our hair.

**What do you do to keep your skin and body clean?**

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### What have we learnt?

#### Oral

1. Which sense organ helps you to feel heat and cold?
2. Name any two creatures which have a smooth skin.
3. Why is it important to clean our skin?

#### Written

1. How is the skin useful to us?
2. On which part of the body do you find thick skin?
3. How do climatic changes affect our skin?
4. What kind of skin do fish have?

### Find Around You

1. Find out about some skin diseases.
2. Name some animals that are killed for their skin. What are the methods which can stop hunting of animals.
3. Write the characteristics of skin of any five animals.

