

VOCABULARY

Please define and be prepared to give an oral explanation of the following terms:

1. Tumor
2. Cancer
3. Ultraviolet Radiation
4. Ozone Layer
5. Epidermis
6. Basal Cell
7. Squamous Cell
8. Melanin
9. Melanocytes
10. SPF
11. Vitamin D
12. Tanning (why the body darkens after exposure to sunlight)
13. Mutation
14. Sunburn
15. ABCDEs of Skin Cancer Detection



VOCABULARY ANSWERS

1. Tumor - a mass resulting from unchecked cellular growth.
2. Cancer - condition that may develop when normal cells are damaged in ways that cause them to reproduce in an unregulated manner
3. Ultraviolet Radiation – high energy waves emitted from the sun and other stars; ultraviolet radiation is capable of causing DNA damage.
4. Ozone Layer – gaseous layer containing ozone that (O₃) surrounds the Earth. The ozone layer blocks UVB rays.
5. Epidermis – outermost layer of skin
6. Basal cell - form the deepest layer (basal layer) of the epidermis (the outer layer of skin) and they function as the precursors of all the skin cells above them
7. Squamous cell - the most abundant cells in the epidermis composing the outermost layer.
8. Melanin – skin coloring pigment, produced by melanocytes. Provides skin with small amount of protection from UV radiation.
9. Melanocytes - found in the basal layer of the epidermis and produce the skin pigment melanin.
10. SPF – sun protection factors (15, 30, 45), the higher number allows for a longer safe exposure time.
11. Vitamin D – important for healthy bones and a strong immune system. UV rays cause Vitamin D synthesis within the body, also found in foods.
12. Tanning (why the body darkens after exposure to sunlight) – UV radiation exposure increases melanocyte activity producing more melanin. More melanin production leads darker skin.
13. Mutation - A change in the DNA sequence within a cell. Mutations can lead to the production of defective proteins or alter the regulation of key genes.
14. Sunburn - Redness, pain and blistering triggered by UV damage to the skin. Damaged cells may die and slough off. Sunburns have been linked to skin cancer.

15. ABCDEs of Skin Cancer Detection - The 'hallmarks' of skin cancer, these are the distinguishing characteristics of skin cancers. The letters refer to the shape , color and changes seen in cancerous skin growths. A: asymmetry, B: border, C: color, D: diameter and E: evolution.

