

- 1) Differentiate between sclerenchyma and parenchyma tissues.
- 2) Why epidermis is important for the plants?
- 3) We get a crunchy and granular feeling when we chew pear fruit. Give reasons?
- 4) Why it is difficult to pull the husk of a coconut tree?

Answers

1) Parenchyma	Sclerenchyma
* The cells are thin walled and unspecialized.	* The cells are thick walled and fixed.
* They are living cells.	* The tissues are made of dead cells.

- 2) Epidermis forms a boundary between the plant and the external environment. The epidermis serves several functions; it protects against water loss, regulate gas exchange, secretes metabolic compounds and (especially in roots) absorbs water and mineral nutrients.
- 3) Pear contains cells of sclerenchyma which are small, rounded and called stone cells. They are hard with highly thickened cell walls. These cells give the crunchy and granular feeling when we chew pear fruit.
- 4) Walls of sclerenchyma are lignified, which make them thick. This tissue makes the plant hard and stiff. Coconut husk is very hard and is made of such thickened lignified cells. Such cells make it very hard to pull out the coconut husk.