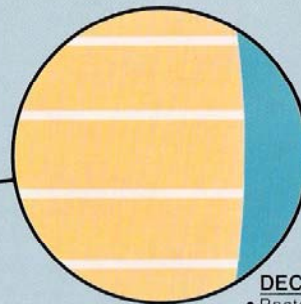
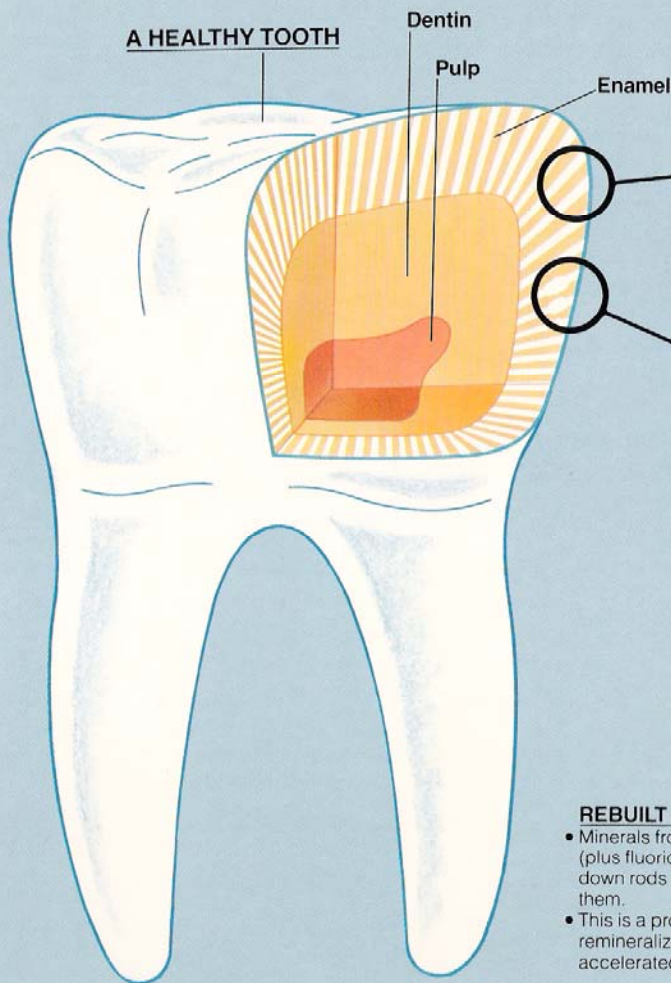
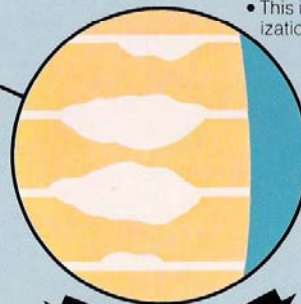


DEMINERALIZATION vs. REMINERALIZATION

A CONSTANT BATTLE



- HEALTHY ENAMEL**
- Extremely hard but porous.
 - Made up of many closely-packed mineral rods.

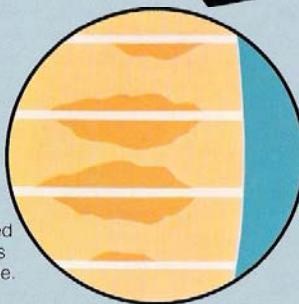


- DECAY PROCESS**
- Bacterial Plaque + Sugar = Acids.
 - Acids seep down spaces between mineral rods and dissolve them below the surface.
 - This is a process called demineralization.

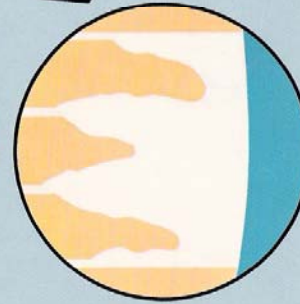
- WEAKENED ENAMEL**
- Continued demineralization can cause an area of many weakened enamel rods.
 - Looks chalky or whiter than normal.

Remineralization exceeds demineralization

Demineralization exceeds remineralization



- REBUILT ENAMEL**
- Minerals from saliva (plus fluoride) seep down rods to rebuild them.
 - This is a process called remineralization and is accelerated by fluoride.



- CAVITY**
- Surface enamel collapses.
 - Cavity requires filling.