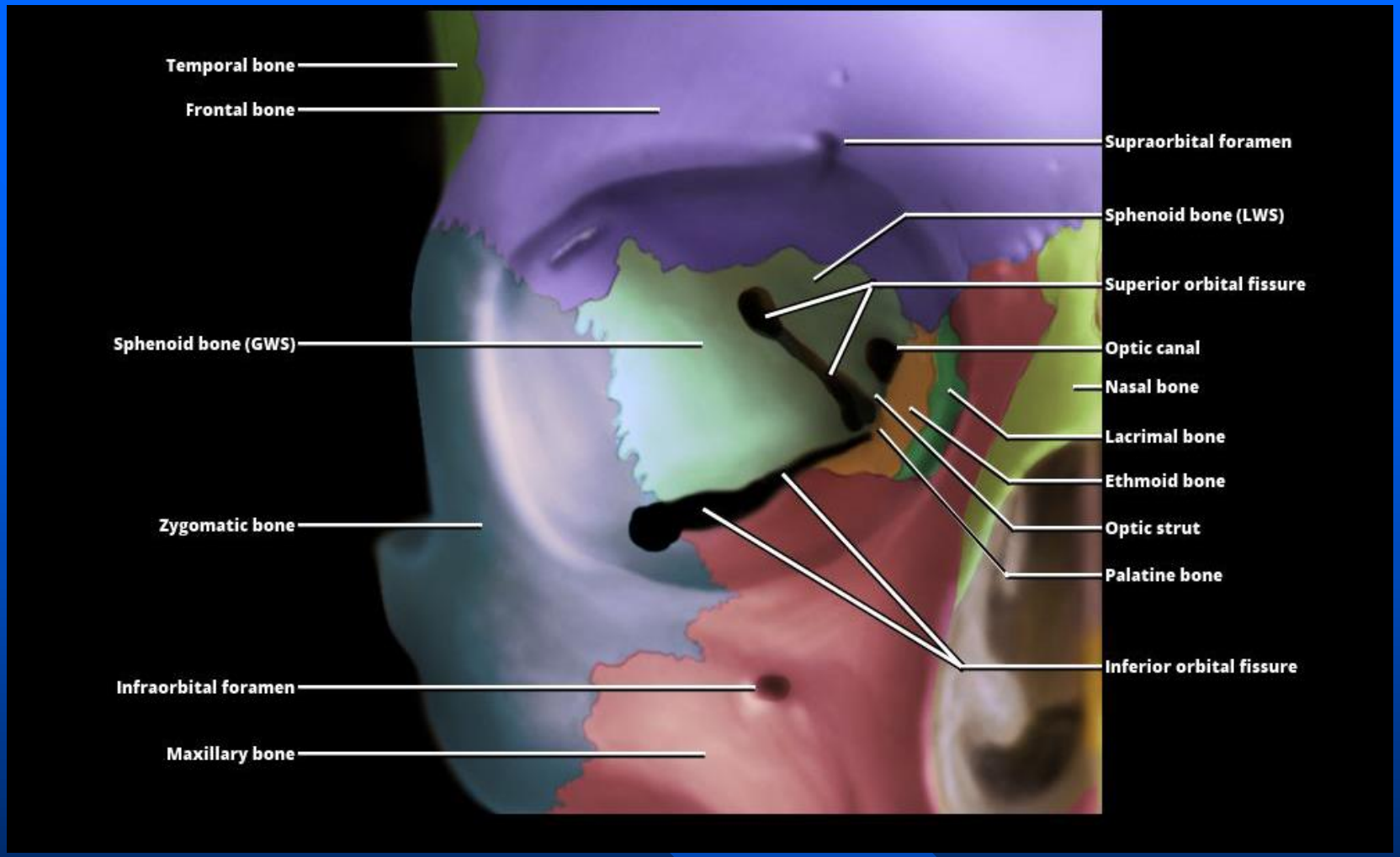
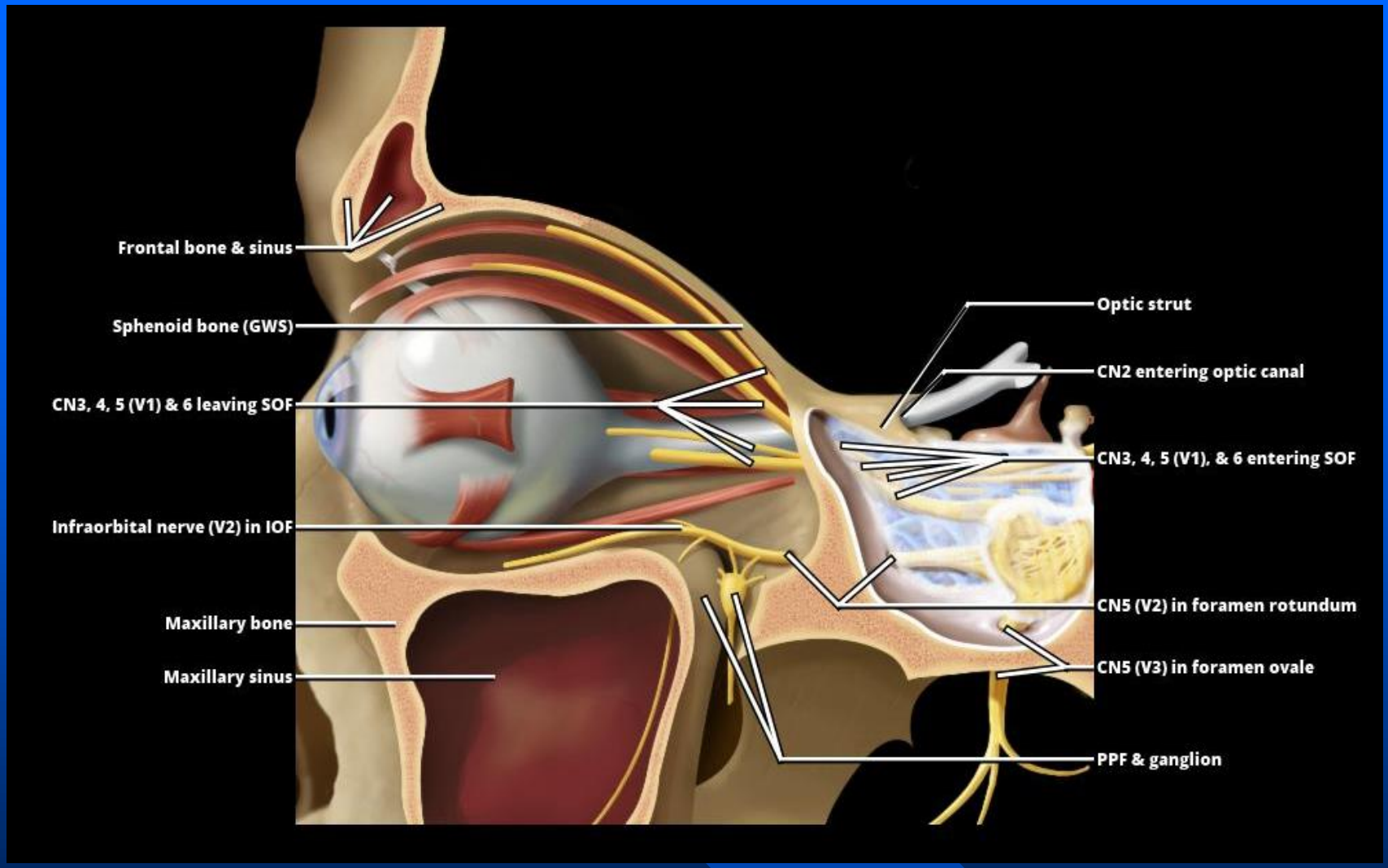
Contents of foramina

- **Optic canal**:
  - CN2 (optic) and OA
- **Superior orbital fissure**:
  - CN3 (Oculomotor), 4 , 5 (V1- Opthalmic), & 6, SOV
- **Inferior orbital fissure**:
  - CN5 (V2 - Maxillary), IOV
- **Foramen rotundum**:
  - CN5 (V2 - Maxillary)-proximal segment
- **Foramen ovale**:
  - CN5 (V3- Mandibular)
- **Supraorbital foramen**:
  - Supraorbital nerve (V1 Ophthalmic)
- **Infraorbital foramen**:
  - Infraorbital nerve (V2 -Maxillary)



- A total of seven embryologically distinct bones contribute to the bony orbit (lacrimal, ethmoid, palatine, maxillary, zygomatic, sphenoid, and frontal bones).
- The sphenoid bone has greater and lesser sphenoid wings.
- The complex orbital fissures and optic canal at the apex are formed largely by the wings of the sphenoid bone and associated relationships. Notice that the optic canal has lesser wing of sphenoid and ethmoid bone components



- The optic nerve (CN2) is relatively isolated in the optic canal.
- Whereas the superior orbital fissure transmits CN3, 4, 5 (V1), and 6 as they course forward from the cavernous sinus and Meckel cave.
- The other branches of CN5 also contribute to the complexity of the central skull base as they pass through their respective foramina.