Sponges

Sponges are marine animals are sponges and are **invertebrates.** They usually remain anchored in one place all their lives. Sponges are **filter feeders** (they filter tiny particles of food from the water). A sponge has only two layers of cells. The outer covering of the sponge's body is covered with tiny holes called **pores.** These pores lead to tiny canals that are made up of specialized cells with whip like structures that beat rapidly. This motion helps to pump water into the canals. **Thread** like structures remove the tiny pieces of food from the water. The water then flows out through an opening called a **vent**. Sponges have **needle** like parts that give them shape. Different species of sponges have different **colors, shapes** and **sizes**. Sponges are found on **reefs** in The Bahamas. At one time, Bahamian fishermen harvested sponges which were sold to foreign countries. The sponges were processed into a variety of household items that could be used for decoration and bathing. At that time the sponging industry was the most important economic activity in The Bahamas.

Sponge reproduces using **asexual** reproduction. This means that a sponge is both male and female. They can mate with each other. They also **regenerate**. This means that if one part is broken off, both parts will continue to survive and reproduce.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Date: _____

Directions: Answer each question about sponges.

1. The holes on sponges are called _____ (1)

2. Sponges are _____ animals and they are _____. (2)

3. Use the numbers 1 – 4 to show how water flow through sponges. (4)

__Water is purified

__ Thread like structures remove pieces of food

__ Pores leads to canals

__ Water flows to the vents

4. The _____ parts give shape to sponges. (1)

5. Where are sponges found in The Bahamas? (1)

_____

6. Name three ways sponges are used. (3)

_____ _____

_____

7. Sponges are also known as _____ _____ (2)

8. How many layers of cells do sponges have? (1)

_____

9. Which invertebrate use asexual reproduction? [1] _____

10. Define the term asexual reproduction. [2]

_____

_____

[18 points]

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