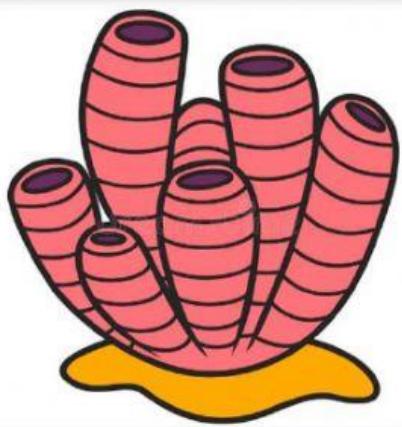


GENERAL SCIENCE

INVERTEBRATES: SPONGES

Sponges are marine animals.

Sponges are invertebrates. They usually remain **anchored** (sessile) 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**. (1) These pores **lead to canals** which are made up of specialized cells with whip like structures that beat rapidly. This motion helps purified water into canals. (2) **Thread like structures** remove the tiny pieces of food from the water. (3) 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 where sponges were processed into a variety of household items that could be used for **decorations** and **bathing**.

