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**.

