Science

SPONGES



Sponges are **marine** invertebrates which means that they are animals that live in the sea. They are found on **reefs** in The Bahamas and usually remain anchored in one place all their lives. A sponge has only **two layers of cells**. The outer covering of the sponge's body is covered with tiny holes called **pores**. Sponges also have needle like parts that give them shape. Different species of sponges have different colors, shapes and sizes.



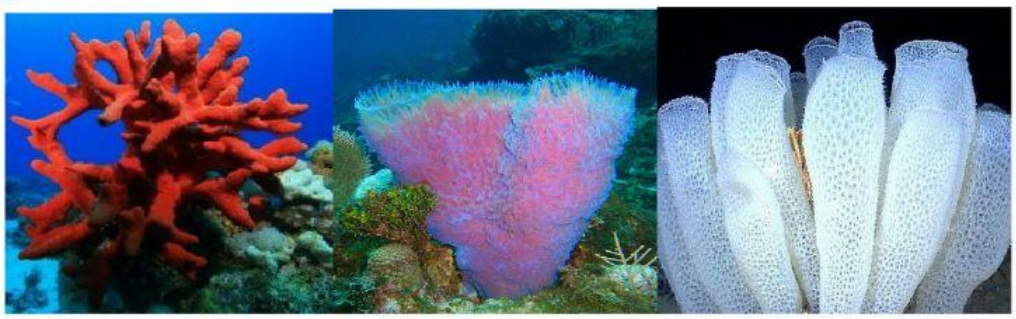
How sponges feed?

Sponges are **filter feeders**. They filter tiny particles of food from the water. Water and food enter the sponge's body through their pores. 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. Thread like structures remove the tiny pieces of food from the water. The water then flows out through an opening called a **vent**.

Uses of Sponges

At one time, sponges were plentiful in The Bahamas and it was a major industry. Bahamian fishermen would harvest the sponges and sell them to foreign countries where sponges were processed into a variety of household items that could be used for ***decorations*** and ***bathing***.

Three types of sponges are **Red Branching**, **Purple Vase** and **Venus Flower Basket**.



LIVEWORKSHEETS