

Sponges have been used since ancient times



○ The Greeks used them in their helmets.

○ The Romans used them for paintbrushes and mop.

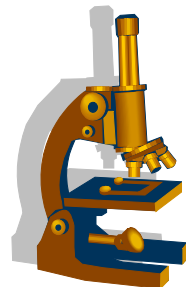
Proifera



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● The early classification put sponges with plants

○ When they started to use microscope they discovered the similarities to animals.



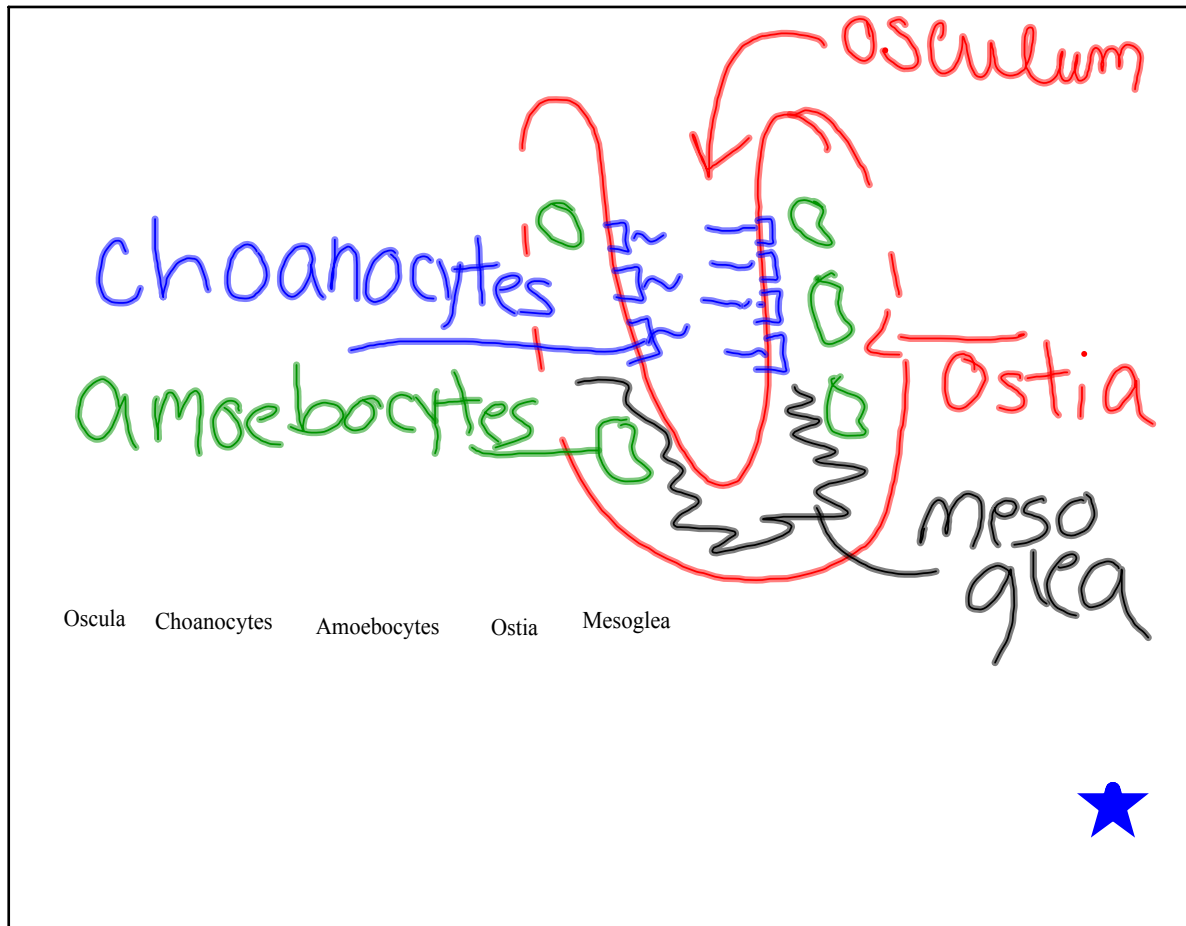
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- Asymmetrical
- Sessile- non mobile

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- Sponges do not have tissues or organs
- Sponge cells can recognize other sponge cells

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- Spongin-makes up the skeleton on the sponge. It is a flexible protein fiber.

- Spicules- tiny needles of silica and calcium carbonate

glass

Calcareous

have
spicules
made of
calcium
carbonate

Glass

have
spicules
made of
silica

glass

Demosponge

made of
spongin

protein

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Reproduce asexually and sexually

● Sponges regenerate when cut into pieces

○ They reproduce by breaking off

fragments

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- Many sponges are hermaphrodites
 - The egg and sperm are produced at different times so they can self fertilize
not

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