

Sponges have been used since ancient times



○ The Greeks used them in their helmets.

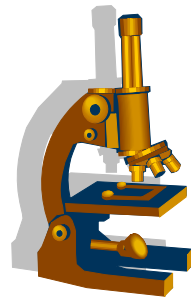
○ The Romans used them for paintbrushes and mops.



29-1 Porifera

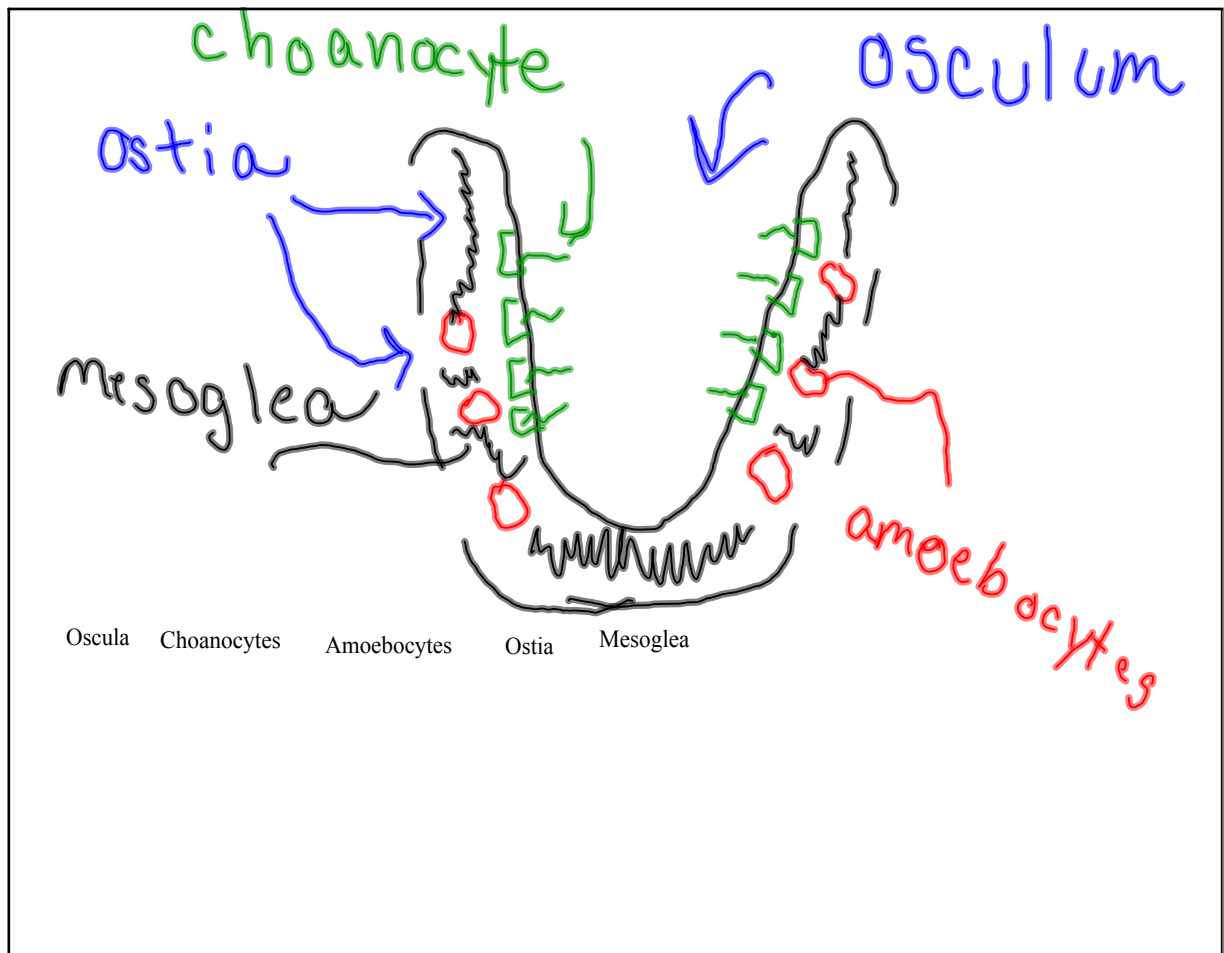
● The early classification put sponges with plants.

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



- Asymmetrical
- Sessile- non mobile

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



- 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

Demosponge

made of
spongin

Reproduce asexually and sexually

- Sponges regenerate when cut into pieces

- They reproduce by breaking off fragments.

- Many sponges are

hermaphrodite

- The egg and sperm are produced at different times so they can't self fertilize