

Sponges have been used since ancient times

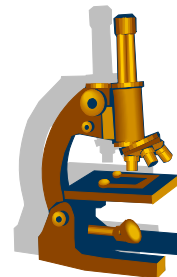


- The Greeks used them in their helmets.
- The Romans used them for paintbrushes and mops.



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- The early classification put sponges with plants.
- When they started to use microscopes they discovered the similarities to animals.



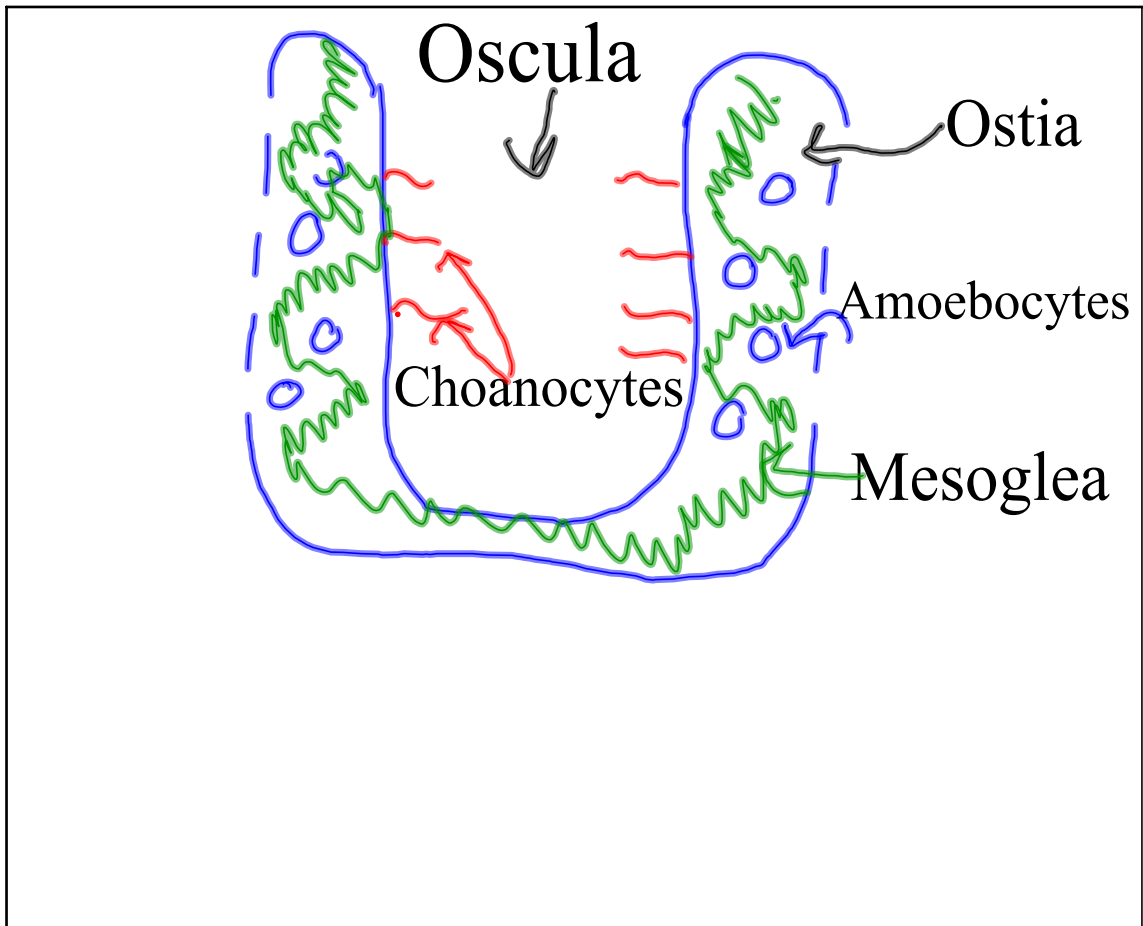
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- Asymmetrical
- Sessile- non mobile

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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

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Calcareous

have
spicules
made of
calcium
carbonate

Glass

have
spicules
made of
silica

Demosponge

made of
spongin

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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 cannot self fertilize