

Sponges have been used since ancient times

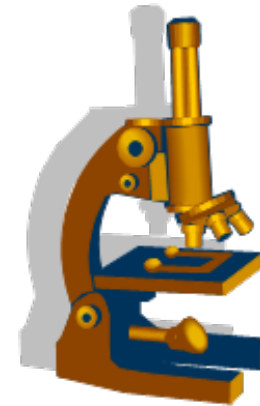


○ The Greeks used them in their helmets.

○ The Romans used them for paintbrushes and mops.

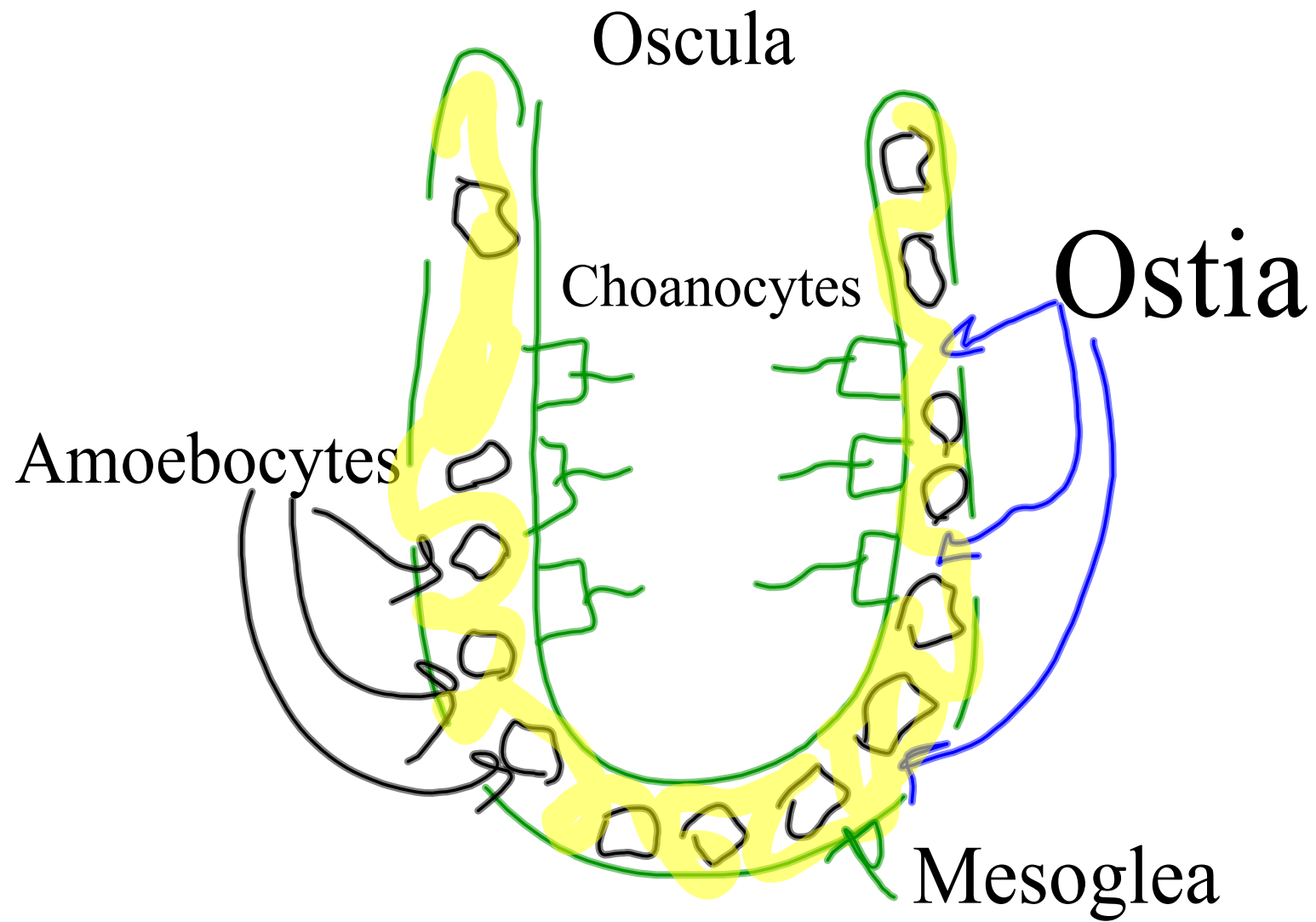


- The early classification put sponges with plants.
- When they started to use microscopes they discovered the similarities to animals.



- Asymmetrical
- Sessile- non mobile

- Sponges do not have fissures 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 don't self fertilize

