

Sponges have been used since ancient times



○ The Greeks used them in their helmets.

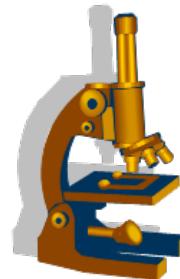
○ The Romans used them for paintbrushes and MAPS.



Oct 9 - 8:09 PM

● The early classification put sponges with plants.

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



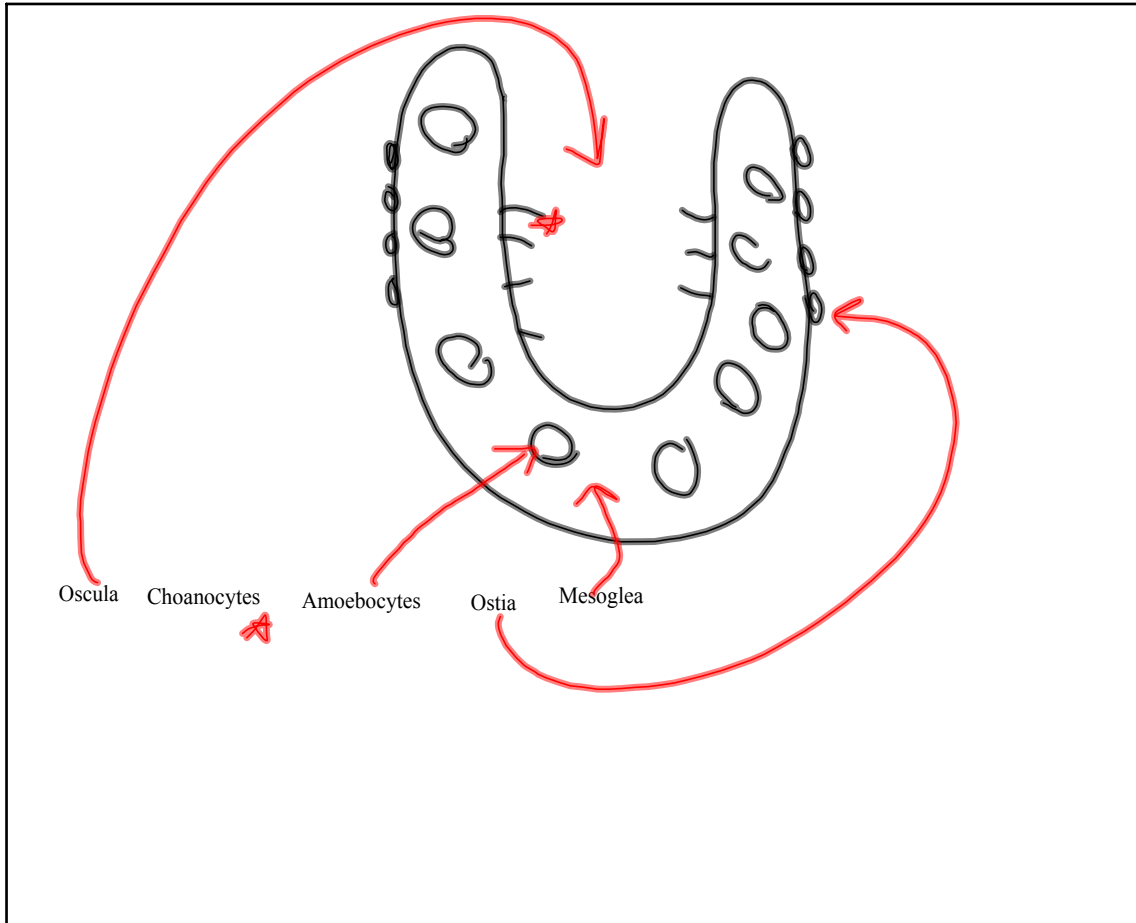
Oct 9 - 8:13 PM

- Asymmetrical
- Sessile- non mobile

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

Oct 9 - 8:17 PM



Oct 9 - 8:21 PM

- 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 can't self fertilize

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