

Sponges have been used since ancient times



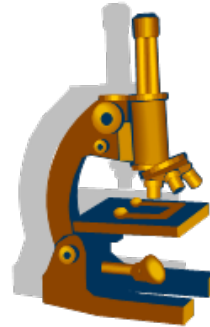
- The Greeks used them in their helmets.

- The Romans used them for paintbrushes and mops



- The early classification put sponges with plants.

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



- *without* 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

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