



Name _____ Date _____

Concept Covered: The Life of a Sponge 1

1. Sponges are sessile. What does this mean? _____

2. Explain how sponges obtain their food. _____

3. What do sponges eat? _____

4. How do sponges digest food? _____

5. What happens to the digested food? _____

6. How are wastes eliminated from the body of the sponge?



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Teacher Answer Key

1. Animals that are sessile are permanently attached to one spot.
2. Sponges are filter feeders. The flagella of the collar cells (choanocytes) pull water into the sponge through the ostia. Food particles are filtered out of the water and the water is expelled through the osculum.
3. Sponges eat bacteria, protozoans, unicellular algae and bits of organic matter.
4. Digestion is intracellular. Food is engulfed and digested by the collar cells or choanocytes.
5. Crawling cells called amebocytes (archaeocytes) take the digested food and deliver it to the cells of the body.
6. Carbon dioxide and metabolic wastes diffuse into the water and exit through the osculum.