

**Sponges, Cnidarians, and Worms** ▪ *Guided Reading and Study*

# Sponges and Cnidarians

*This section describes the characteristics of sponges and cnidarians. It also explores life on a coral reef.*

## Use Target Reading Skills

*As you read, compare and contrast sponges and cnidarians by completing the table below.*

**Sponges and Cnidarians**

Feature	Sponge	Cnidarian
Body structure	Hollow bag with pores	
Cell type that traps food		
Method(s) of reproduction		

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## Sponges

- Describe the body of a sponge.

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- Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about sponges.
  - Sponges usually have no body symmetry.
  - Sponges always have tissues and organs.
  - A sponge gets oxygen from water.
  - Adult sponges do not to attach themselves to hard surfaces underwater.

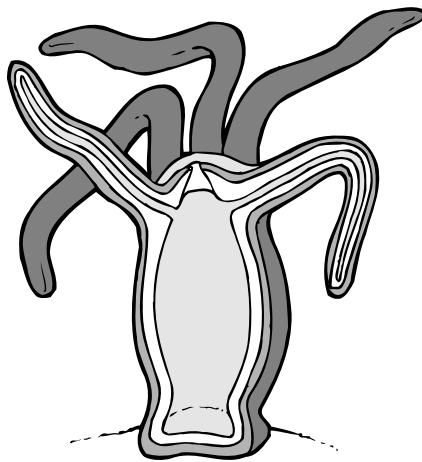
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**Sponges and Cnidarians** *(continued)*

3. A network of \_\_\_\_\_ supports the bodies of most sponges.
4. Sponges reproduce asexually in a process called \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Is the following sentence true or false? Sponges have separate sexes.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cnidarians**

6. What are cnidarians?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Circle the letter of each characteristic of a polyp.
  - a. mouth opens at top
  - b. attached to underwater surface
  - c. shaped like upside-down bowl
  - d. radial symmetry
8. In this diagram, identify which body form is a polyp and which is a medusa. Then label the mouth and central cavity for each.



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

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9. How does a cnidarian capture prey?

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10. Is the following sentence true or false? A jellyfish is not able to swim.

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11. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about cnidarians.

- a. Cnidarians use stinging cells to capture prey.
- b. Cnidarians take food into a central body cavity.
- c. Cnidarians expel undigested food through the mouth.
- d. Cnidarians cannot move.

**Life in a Colony**

12. Coral reefs are built by \_\_\_\_\_.

13. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about coral reefs.

- a. Coral polyps produce hard, stony skeletons around their soft bodies.
- b. When coral polyps die, their skeletons break down to dust.
- c. Coral reefs are very limited in size.
- d. Coral reefs are home to more species of fishes and invertebrates than any other environment on Earth.