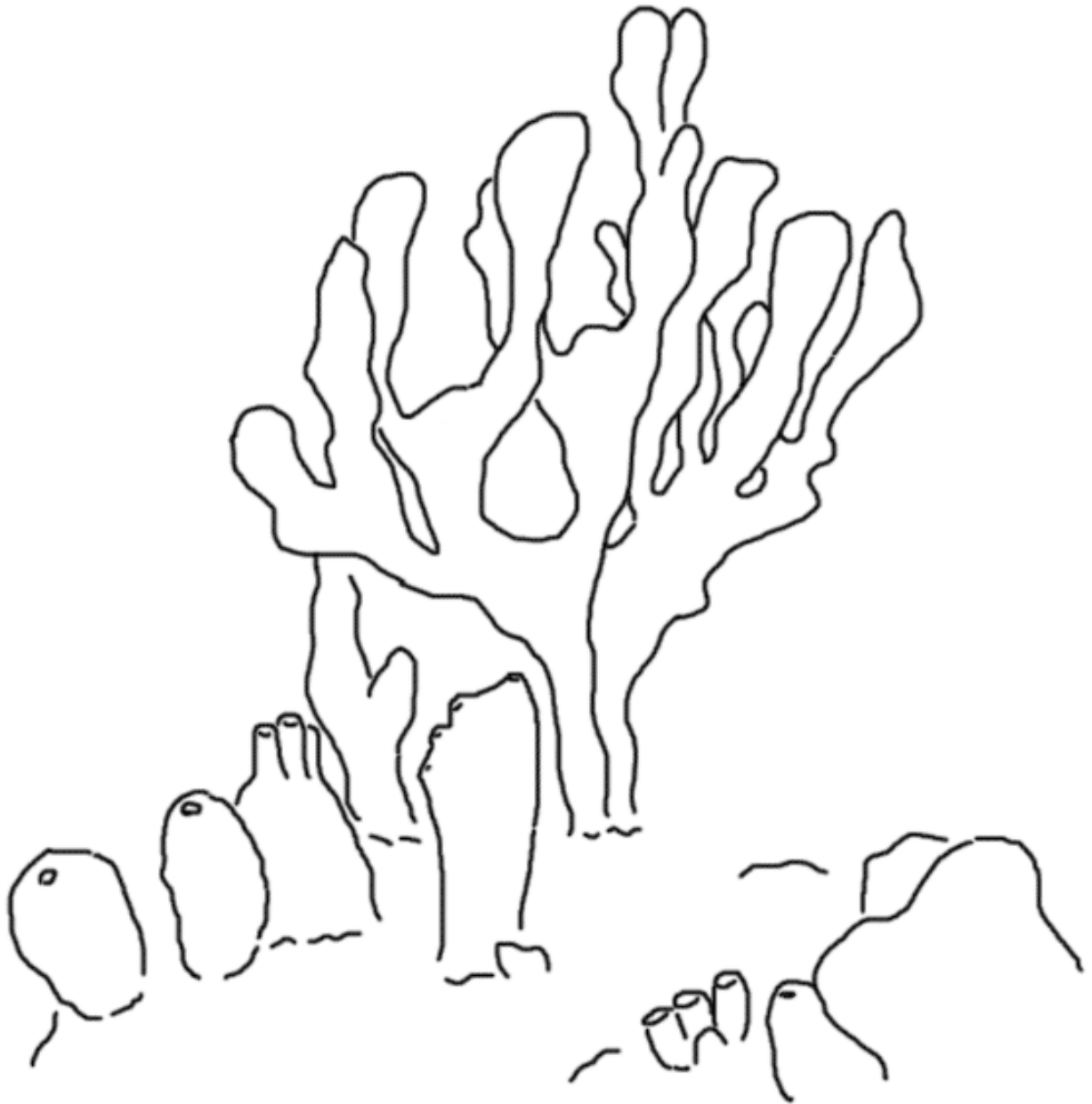
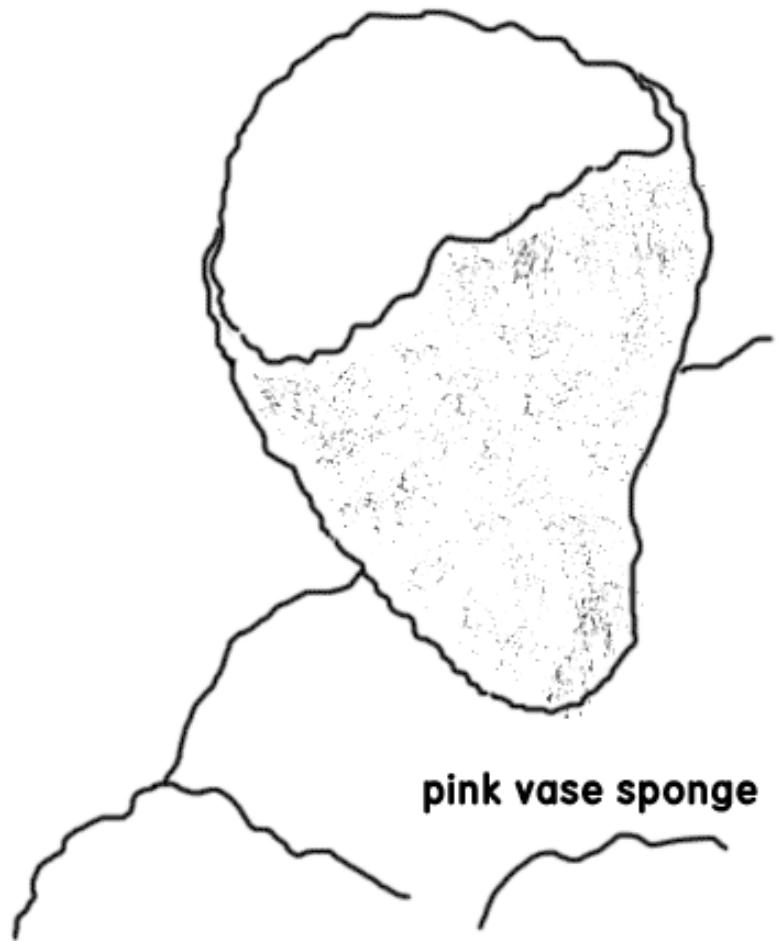


# Sea Sponges



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**red tree sponge**



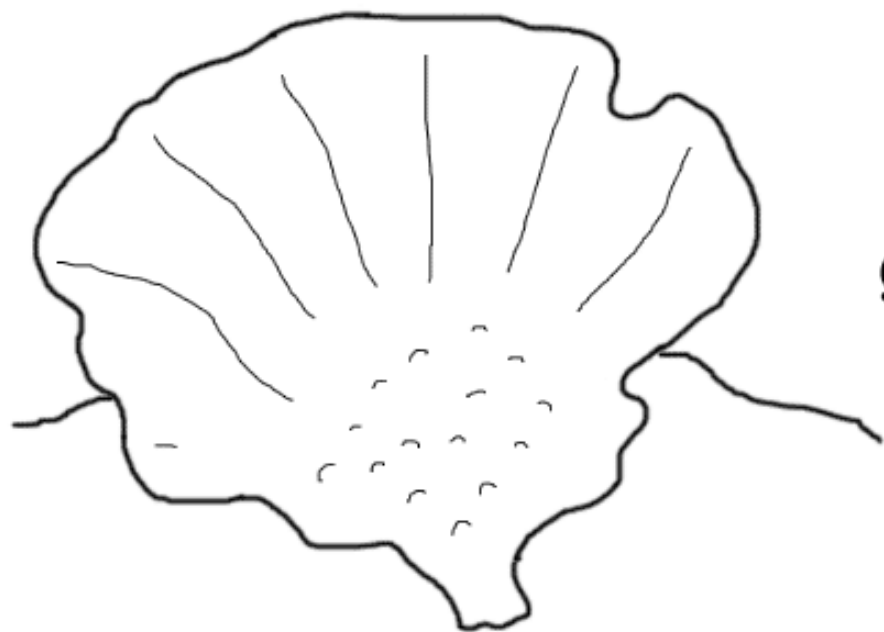
**pink vase sponge**

**Sponges are bottom dwelling animals that live mostly in the ocean.**

**They attach themselves to something and have no means of locomotion.**

**There are about five thousand species, so they're really quite diverse.**

**Their larvae are carried by the ocean waves, and that's how they disperse.**



**orange fan sponge**

**green sponge  
(on a rock)**



**Sponges come in different sizes and are made of different cells.**

**Sponges don't have muscles, nerves, organs, or protective outer shells.**

**Sponges have many different cell types in their body's simple form.**

**Each cell has a special function, or a job it must perform.**

**fire sponge**



**gray stove  
pipe sponge**

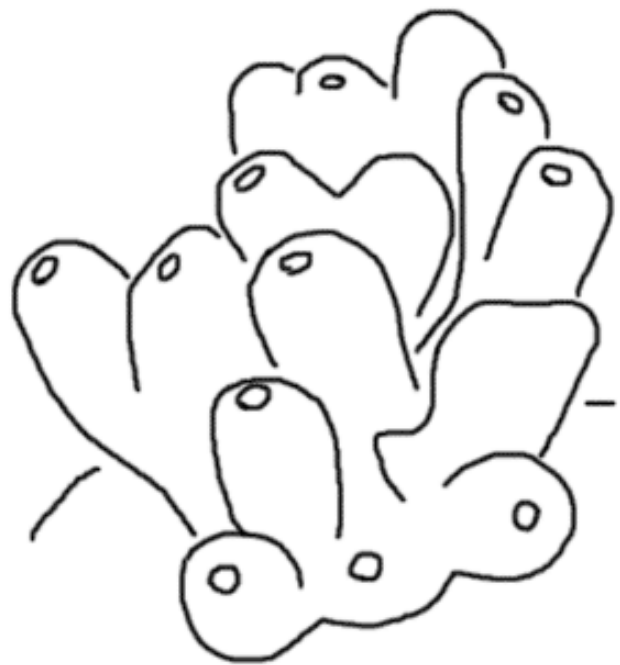
**Sponges, called porifera (*paw-rif-er-uh*), have many openings called pores.**

**Flowing water brings the food into these tiny open doors.**

**A sponge does have a skeleton, but it's really hard to see.**

**You would have to use a microscope, and it still is not easy.**

**yellow boring  
sponge**



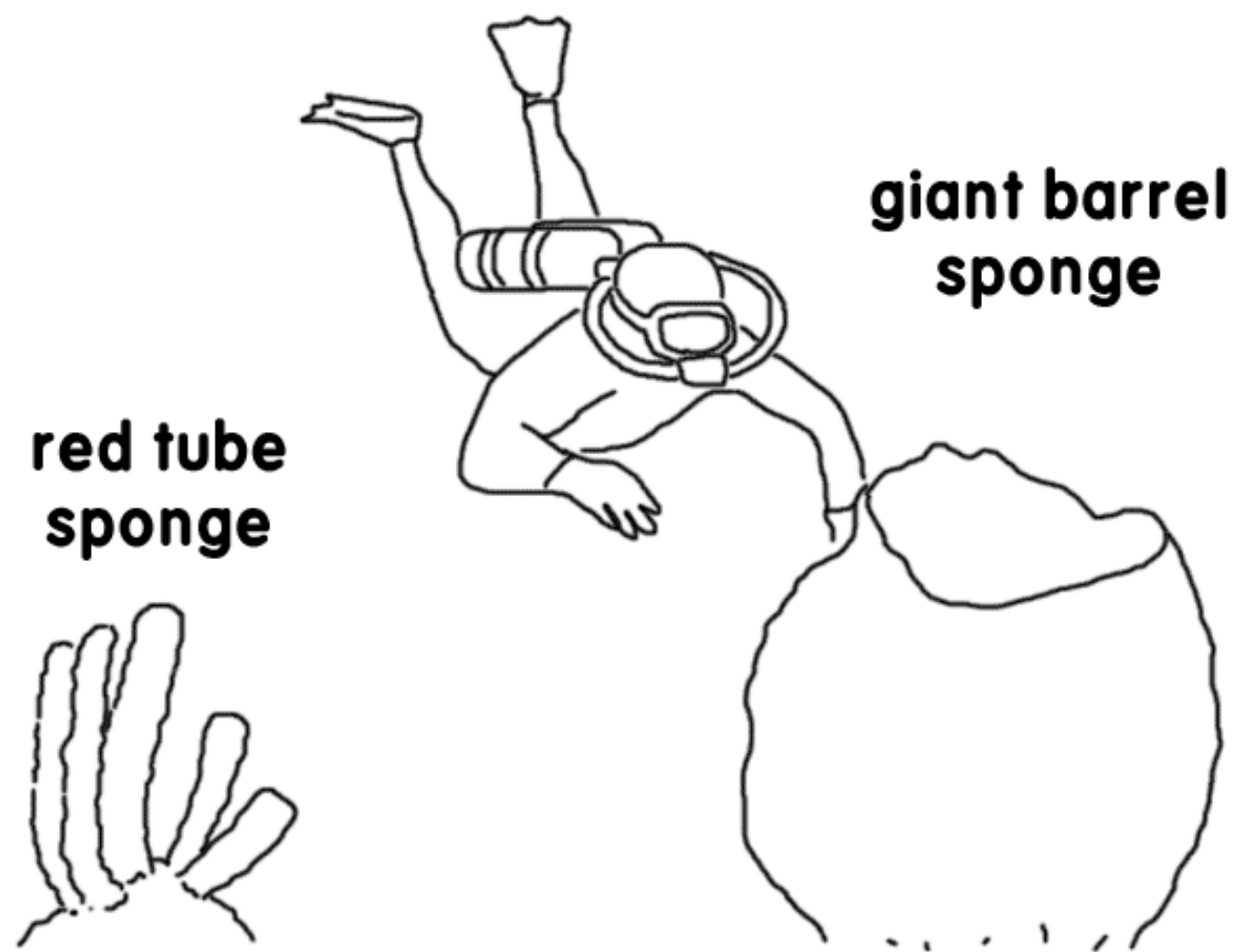
**blue sponge**

**Sponges live almost everywhere out in the briny sea.**

**A few live in freshwater in the lakes near you and me.**

**Sponges come in every color, and in every shape and size,**

**From the yellow of a lemon, to the azure of the skies.**



**There are sponges that are flat and sponges that are round. Red tube sponges grow in reefs. The Caribbean is where they're found. There are giant barrel sponges big enough to climb inside. There are sponges that are so tiny they're less than one-quarter inch wide.**

**purple row  
pore rope sponge**



**brown  
bowl sponge**

**Sponges give off toxic substances to keep predators at bay.**

**They also provide a place where bacteria and algae can stay.**

**Sponges have lived upon the earth more than 500 million years.**

**And the sponge is not endangered as a species, it appears.**

1. Where do most sponges live?
  - a. floating in the ocean
  - b. on the ocean floor
  - c. on the beach
  - d. under a waterfall

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. About how many species of sponges are there?
  - a. about five
  - b. about five hundred
  - c. about five thousand
  - d. about fifty thousand

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which of these do sponges have?
  - a. nerves
  - b. muscles
  - c. organs
  - d. cells

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. What kind of sponge is big enough for a person to hide in?
  - a. a crater sponge
  - b. a box sponge
  - c. a barrel sponge
  - d. a trunk sponge

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



5. How do sponges protect themselves?

- a. protective coloration
- b. mimicry
- c. float away
- d. give off toxic substances

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

6. About how long have sponges lived on the Earth?

- a. fifty million years
- b. five hundred million years
- c. five hundred years
- d. five thousand years

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_