CHAPTER 29 SPONGES, CNIDARIANS, FLATWORMS, AND ROUNDWORMS

Get the Big Picture

Read the paragraphs in the boxes. Then answer the questions.

Organisms similar to the sponges, cnidarians, flatworms, and roundworms of today were Earth's earliest animals. Scientists sometimes study these animals to find out how animal bodies have evolved. Sponges have a simple body. They have an irregular shape with only one body opening. Most sponges live in the ocean. The body of a cnidarian also has only one opening. However, their body is shaped like the wheel of a bicycle. The body of the cnidarian is the hub, or center, of the wheel. Their body parts extend outward from the hub like spokes. Most cnidarians also live in the oceans.

Flatworms have a thin body with only one opening. If you drew a line lengthwise down the center of a flatworm's body, the left half would be the mirror image of the right half. Some flatworms live in the water. Others are parasitic and live in other animals. Roundworms have a round body with a mirror-image form similar to the flatworm. Unlike flatworms, roundworms have two body openings. Most roundworms live in soil or water. Some are parasites.

1. Where can sponges, cnidarians, flatworms, and roundworms all be found? _____

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2. What can you compare the body of a cnidarian to? _____

3. Which three types of animals have only one body opening? _____

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4. How is the body of a sponge different from the body of a roundworm? _____

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