

CHAPTER 29 SPONGES, CNIDARIANS, FLATWORMS, AND ROUNDWORMS

The animals shown are all very simple animals with distinct traits. The **sponge** is the simplest. Sponges have only one body opening. Sponges belong to a group of animals that evolved entirely in the water. They live alone or in colonies.

The **cnidarian** is a soft-bodied animal that lives in water. Cnidarians evolved a wide variety of body shapes. They have one body opening in which they digest their food. Most species of cnidarians use stinging cells to capture their prey. Jellyfishes and hydras are cnidarians.

The **flatworm** has a more complex body than the sponge or the cnidarian, but it still has only one body opening. The two eye spots on a flatworm's head region are made up of cells that can tell the difference between light and dark. Some flatworms are scavengers. Others, such as the tapeworm, are parasites. Some flatworms spend their entire life under rocks in the water, others live on land.

The fourth animal is a **roundworm**. Roundworms have two body openings—one for eating and one for excretion. They often live as parasites in plants, humans, and other animals. Roundworms can live on land or in water.

| Name of Animal | Example | One or Two Openings in Body? | Do They Live on Land or in Water? | Are Any Species Parasites? |
|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sponge | | one | | |
| Cnidarian | jellyfish | | | |
| Flatworm | | | land and water | |
| Roundworm | <i>Ascaris</i> | | | yes |