

# Phylum Porifera in the News

## I. Introduction.

Sponges are a long looked-over species. Despite their sedentary lifestyle, lack of complex systems, or a cute face we can all sigh about, they are nonetheless an incredible and iconic organism. Where else would we get the immortal SpongeBob Square Pants? In this activity, you will see just how much more interesting this creature is.

## II. Directions.

On the class website, there is a link to a folder with a series of short articles that detail different aspects of the biology of sponges. Your goal is to individually craft an article for the New Yorker Magazine detailing why these creatures are truly interesting and deserve a better rap than they've gotten to date. You need to use a minimum of 3 of the articles in this packet (also in PDFs on the class website) and find and cite at least 2 of your own researched articles to support your argument about why these species deserve a better appreciation.

Students in the past have used as many as 16 sources aside from the 3 in this packet and as few as 5 to get the job adequately done. Remember, the fewer the articles, the more powerful information they will need to have in them. Remember also, a simple change to the wording of your search parameters can yield a great deal more articles for you to use; so be creative in your research efforts.

## III. Product.

A one page, single spaced, Times New Roman, size 12 font, 1-inch margin article should be written. The only title you need is the catchy title you give to convert peoples' opinions on this amazing organism. If you use any pictures, do so AFTER you've typed out the FULL ONE PAGE article for the magazine. If you add a photo to get the article to one page, it will not be considered one page; however, if you add the photo afterward and the length goes beyond a page, that is acceptable, and encouraged. The use of names of sources during articles are crucial to help build your case for this species.

NOTE: All papers will be put through a plagiarism detection software and plagiarism is not accepted whatsoever. Paraphrase your work and use proper APA citations both in-text as well as in your references cited at the end (does not count toward the 1 page in the body of your article). Great resources for APA citations are "The Purdue Owl Writing Lab" or any free citation engine.

HOW TO TURN IN: Share with Mr. F's email as soon as you open a new Google Doc ([Lucas.Fatsy@naugatuck.k12.ct.us](mailto:Lucas.Fatsy@naugatuck.k12.ct.us)) and you will not have a problem.

## IV. Grading

Paper is authentic, well thought out, and catchy → 15 points

Paper uses at least 3 articles from this packet and at least 3 from outside sources → 5 points

Paper has proper APA citations in-text as well as a "References Cited" section at the end → 10 points

All articles were written between 2010 and the present → 5 points

Paper total → 35 points (formative grade)