



Video Transcript

How to Collect a Sponge

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- In this video, we will show you how to collect a sponge.
- You will need a knife or scissors, labeled specimen bags, an underwater camera, a ruler, and a slate or clipboard.
- Once you encounter a specimen, photograph it before disturbing it.
- Include a ruler or a scale in the photograph to record the size of the specimen.
- Note the shape of the sponge, the color, the number and arrangement of oscula, and any surface texture like bumps or ridges.
- Cut a small piece of the sponge for examination in the lab.
- A piece the size of your thumb is plenty of material.
- If the specimen displays some distinctive characteristics when cut, record them with photographs or written notes.
- For example, a sponge might have a different color on the outside than on the inside.
- Place the specimen into a labeled plastic bag.
- It is useful to photograph the bag and label to track your digital photographs.
- You can also take a photo of your written notes.
- When you return to the lab, put the sponge into an aquarium or a seawater system until you are ready to preserve it.

