**Learning Objective**We are learning how to use a thesaurus to find words that have a similar meaning when writing sentences.

**Challenge
With a reading buddy, use a thesaurus to replace each of the bracketed words with a suitable synonym. (If the word you find is unfamiliar to you, use a dictionary to make sure that you use the word correctly.)**

Sponges have (been around) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a very long time, with (certain) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ species having a fossil record that dates back approximately 600 million years to the earliest period of Earth’s history.

Sponges are often confused with corals. However, whilst they are both (immobile) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ aquatic invertebrates, they are otherwise very different (creatures) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with different body structures, feeding methods and reproductive processes.

Sponges are (important) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ inhabitants of coral reef ecosystems. A (diverse) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sponge population can improve the water quality of a reef by filtering water, collecting bacteria, and processing carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus. They also (help) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a reef’s biodiversity by excreting a form of “sponge poop” that other animals feed on!

Sponges have an (excellent) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ability to adapt to the (habitats) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in which they are found. They can live on hard, rocky surfaces or soft sediments such as sand and mud. Some sponges even attach themselves to floating debris!

As seawater filters through a sponge’s porous exterior, it receives food and oxygen - the building blocks of life. Inside the sponge, tiny hair-like structures called flagella (create) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_currents to filter bacteria out of the sponge’s cells and (trap) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ food within them. Their skeletal bodies are extremely strong which helps them to (withstand) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the high volume of water that flows through them each day.