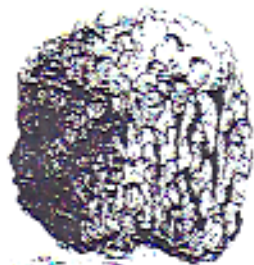


#24

Name: _____ Signature _____

E-14

COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES



Most of the sponges used in the United States are not true sponges. Synthetic sponges are man-made. Their appearance and use is like that of true sponges.

Almost all of the true sponges in the United States come from Tarpon Springs, Florida. This community was originally settled by sponge fishermen from Greece. Men in Tarpon Springs are trained from boyhood to be sponge fishermen. Some boys learn how to dive for the sponges.

The sponge diver has to wear a very heavy suit. He dives to depths of 150 feet to reach the sponges. When the sponges are brought out of the water, they are spread on the deck of the ship to dry. During this process the animal inside the sponge dies. When the remains of the sponge animal are removed, the sponges are hung in the rigging of the ship.

Sometimes the sponge boats stay out for months at a time. When they sail back into Tarpon Springs, their boats are covered with the drying sponges. The community greets the returning fleet with celebrations which express gratitude for the successful trip.

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- This story is about:
 - man-made sponges
 - sponges from Tarpon Springs
 - sponge celebrations
 - training a sponge diver
- Sponges must be:
 - fished for
 - dived for
 - caught with a net
 - small
- They are dried:
 - in nets
 - in the riggings
 - on deck
 - on the beach
- A sponge has:
 - an animal inside
 - sand in it
 - a crab inside
 - nothing inside
- Sponge boats stay out for:
 - weeks
 - months
 - a year
 - days
- In this story rigging means:
 - fixing a race
 - clothing
 - ropes and chains in a boat
 - ropes and chains in a theater
- Tarpon Springs probably was:
 - in a desert
 - in the mountains
 - by the sea
 - in the forest