

MADREPORITE

Meaning: Madreporite is a porous, sieve-like structure in echinoderms that regulates water flow into their water vascular system.

1. The madreporite acts as a filter for water entering the water vascular system of echinoderms.
2. Scientists study the madreporite to understand how sea stars and sea urchins manage their buoyancy.
3. In some echinoderms, the madreporite is located on the aboral surface, making it easily identifiable.
4. Damage to the madreporite can severely impact an echinoderm's ability to move and feed.
5. The madreporite's role in regulating hydraulic pressure is crucial for the locomotion of sea cucumbers.

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