



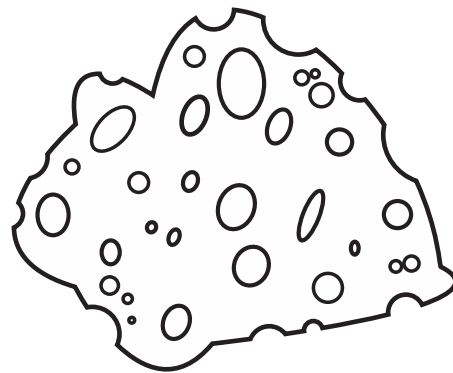
FACT SHEET **SPONGE**

Matthew 27:48

Read It:
Matthew 27:48

Talk It:
When was the last time you were SUPER thirsty?

Know it:
There is a very interesting part of the story when Jesus was dying on the cross. At one point, the soldiers lifted up some wine on a sponge, and the Bible says that at first Jesus refused it. According to Matthew 27:34 and Mark 15:23, the first time they offered Jesus a drink, the wine had either gall or myrrh mixed in it. That was a drug that would help Jesus not feel as much pain. Jesus smelled the drug and refused it. He had to experience all the pain because He was taking our place on the cross. Several hours later, he was offered old wine without the drugs (Matthew 27:48 and Mark 15:36) and he accepted it.



After all that Jesus had suffered, it is amazing that He willingly chose to feel all the pain, without any “medicine” or “pain killers” to reduce His agony. He was taking on all the punishment for our sins and didn't allow anything to make the job easier on Himself. Would you take someone else's punishment? What if your brother or sister or friend got in trouble, would you take their punishment for them? Not likely. But that is exactly what Jesus did, and He didn't lessen the punishment in any way, even when it was offered to Him. That is love!

Go Do It:
Hopefully you have accepted Jesus as your Savior and have allowed what He did on the cross to pay for your sin so you can go to Heaven. Have you thanked Him for it lately? Take a few minutes and thank Jesus for dying for you and for going through so much pain and suffering to pay for your sin, and for not doing anything to lessen it. Because He died, you are able to live forever!