1. Begins at precise time:
   - 128 cell stage
   - all cells now the same size
     (micromere division slows down)

2. Cell/cell contacts tighten:
   - tight junctions seal off blastocoel from outside world

3. Motive forces:
   - hyaline layer essential early
     *experiment: block blastomere contact with
     hyaline layer using anti-hyaline antibodies
     blastocoel formation ceases (why?)

   - Osmotic gradient (H₂O influx) essential late
     *proteins released from cells into center
     *Na⁺ influx

4. Preparation for hatching:
   - ciliation of blastomeres
   - synthesis and release of hatching enzyme
   - free swimming flattened older blastula