SHEDD AQUARIUM

K–5

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Jellies Special Exhibit

Be transported to the beautiful and mysterious world of sea jellies. In Shedd's new special exhibit, *Jellies,* discover the intriguing ways in which these pulsing, translucent animals survive—and thrive—in the world's oceans.

KEY CONCEPTS

- Life cycles
- Diversity
- Anatomy
- Habitats
- Jelly blooms

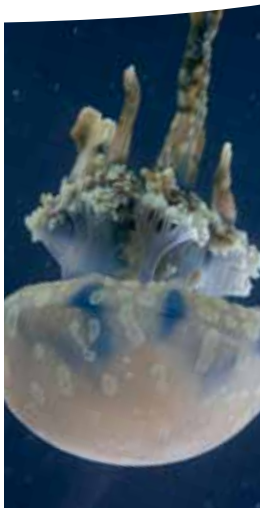
CONNECTIONS TO THE EXHIBIT

Imagine Another World

- Use this space to introduce students to the world of jellies. After entering the exhibit, talk to the students about the jellies they see. How would you describe a jelly in your own words? How are they different from other animals? How are they similar?
- For younger students, ask them to imagine they are jellies. Have students mimic the jellies, demonstrating how they move. How does a jelly move differently than you? What body parts are you using to move? Does a jelly have the same body parts?
- For older students, have them make observations about the moon jellies in this exhibit. How do jellies move? As you walk through *Jellies*, you will see about a dozen species. Do you predict that they will all move the same as the moon jellies? Why or why not?

Living in their World

- Ask students to find the largest and the smallest jellies. Be sure to look everywhere! Why do you think jellies are different sizes? How is a jelly's size related to its habitat, prey and behavior?
- Using the animal exhibits and exhibit interactives, have students discover how jellies eat. What body parts does a jelly use to catch and eat its prey?
- Explore the exhibit windows that demonstrate the life cycle of a jelly. How does a jelly grow up? How is its life cycle different from that of other animals?
- Have students observe the different jelly habitats throughout the room. How are an upside-down jelly's habitat and adaptations different from those of other jellies?



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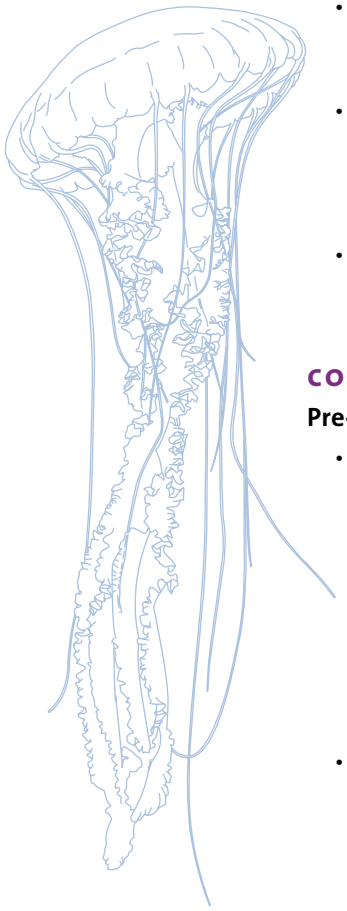

Too Many Jellies?

- Compare the jellies in these exhibits. What different colors and shapes do you see? Why do you think jellies look different?
- This part of the exhibit focuses on jelly blooms. Discuss this idea with students. What do you think might happen if the ocean was overpopulated with jellies? What would change? Would other animals be able to survive?
- What does a healthy ocean look like? Why should we care about the health of the ocean? What can students do to help keep the oceans healthy?

CONNECTIONS TO THE CLASSROOM

Pre-Visit Activities

- Discuss what makes a jelly a jelly and how these animals are similar to or different than other animals. Students can focus on jelly movement and recognizable body parts, like tentacles and the bell. Students may draw diagrams of jellies and other animals, write about their findings on jellies, or put together a Venn diagram of jellies compared to another animal.
- Jellies are often referred to as "jellyfish." Discuss with students why this might not be the most accurate term for a jelly. How do jellies differ from fish? How are they the same?
- Describe a jelly to your students, having them draw what they think you are describing. "Draw an animal that has no eyes, lots of tentacles, a blobby, soft, translucent body and the ability to sting its prey."
- Brainstorm where you might find jellies in the world. You can have students place stickers on a map where they think jellies are found. Then have students research jellies to learn where they live and fill in the map. The Jelly Watch website (in the Further Exploration Sidebar) could be a useful tool.

FURTHER EXPLORATION

Shedd Aquarium's Jellies Exhibit
www.sheddaquarium.org/specialexhibit

Jellies Information
www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/pub/seascience/jellyfi.html

www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/jellyfish/index.jsp

Jellies Sightings
www.jellywatch.org/

For more information contact studentprograms@sheddaquarium.org

Post-Visit Activities

- Return to your ideas about what makes a jelly a jelly. Do you have new information? How would you change your notes, drawings, or Venn diagram?
- Design you own jelly species! Decide on a color, size, shape and habitat for your jelly. Make sure your jelly has all the important body parts, including a bell and tentacles.
- What can we do to help keep the ocean healthy for jellies and other sea creatures? For younger grades, students can write a pledge or draw a picture of what they will do to help save the ocean. Older students can come up with action projects to put their ideas into practice.

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Jellies is generously sponsored by Walgreens