

Conservancy Educational Art Plastic Jellyfish Craft

Materials:

- White cardstock paper
- Plastic bag
- Watercolor paint, markers, colored pencils, or crayons
- Paintbrush
- Cup with water for paint
- Glue stick
- Rubber bands
- String
- Ribbon

Today, you'll create a jellyfish out of materials that often end up in the ocean, and see how easy it is for a sea turtle to confuse plastic for something that is good to eat!

Many sea turtles mistake plastic for pollution. While it's tough to say exactly how much plastic is in the ocean, scientists think about 8 million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean every year. That's the weight of nearly 30,000 airplanes!

Activity Instructions:

Today you will [upcycle](#) a plastic bag into a piece of jellyfish artwork. Use your watercolors, colored pencils, or crayons to create a backdrop for your jellyfish that looks like the ocean.

1. If using watercolors, mix blues and greens and some water from your cup. Give your background a few minutes to dry. Try not to use too much water. If it gets too wet, use a paper towel to dry it off.



Jellyfish are an important prey item for many sea turtles. The Leatherback turtle eats mostly jellyfish.

2. Now cut a large piece from your plastic bag for the body of the jellyfish.



3. You'll bunch up your plastic bag into a jellyfish-like shape and glue it to the top part of your background.



Because plastic bags move with the ocean current, they are very hard for even people to tell apart from jellyfish. Turtles eat them, the plastic fills their stomachs, and the turtles starve to death.

4. Finish your project by cutting up string, rubber bands, ribbon, and other strips of plastic. These can be different lengths. You'll glue these pieces to your jellyfish body down so they hang down along your backdrop. It is ok if they hang over the edge!



Remember what happens to sea turtles when they eat plastic bags the next time you see a plastic bag. Even if it is far from the ocean, the wind can blow bags right into the sea. Pick up trash when you see it, recycle when you can, and help the sea turtles!



DID YOU KNOW?

Jellyfish are considered **plankton** (from the Greek word *planktos*, meaning to wander or drift) and are not strong swimmers, so they are at the mercy of the ocean currents.

ONCE YOU FINISH

Take a photo of your craft and share it with your classmates, family, teacher, and with us on Twitter! [@ConservancySWFL](https://twitter.com/ConservancySWFL)