

Bioluminescent Jellyfish

Learning Overview

Children will learn about important life science topics such as physical structures and habitats while expressing themselves in the creative arts.

Materials

Paper bowl, pen, paint, ribbon, scissors, glue or tape, cellophane, paperclip, string, glow stick

Maker Instructions

Did you know some jellyfish in the deep ocean can glow in the dark? This ability is called bioluminescence. Create your own bioluminescent jellyfish by following these steps:

1. Have an adult pierce the bowl in several places with the a small sharp object such as a pen.
2. Decorate the underside of the bowl with paint. Cut out cellophane squares and glue around the bowl to add more color. Cut and glue or tape ribbons to create tentacles.
3. Once the paint has dried, attach a paper clip and string to hang the jellyfish.
4. Activate the glow stick and glue or tape it to the underside of the bowl. The deep ocean is dark, so take your jellyfish into a dark room to see what a bioluminescent jellyfish would look like in its natural habitat! The more glow sticks, the brighter your jellyfish will be.

Take It Further

- What is it like to live in the deep ocean? Watch a clip from *Splash and Bubbles* season 2, episode 2: "Light at the End of the Tunnel".
- Deep ocean animals use bioluminescence to attract prey, communicate with others, and protect themselves from predators. Stand with a partner at opposite ends of a dark room or outdoors in a safe space at night. Can you use glow sticks to communicate a message?
- What other bioluminescent creatures can you create? Visit the library or use the internet to find pictures of Firefly Squid, Anglerfish, and other deep species that display bioluminescence.

Free Videos

For free *Splash and Bubbles* clips and full episodes, visit: <http://pbskids.org/splashandbubbles/videos>



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