

Bioluminescent Clay Creatures

Learning Overview

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

Materials

Air-dry clay, skewer, paint, ribbon, scissors, glue or tape, googly eyes, colored paper, glow stick

Maker Instructions

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

1. Roll a handful of air-dry clay into a football shape.
2. Put your index finger in the center. Push down and gently roll your finger back and forth, making the inside hollow like a boat. Pinch the clay to make the thickness even on all sides.
3. Turn your boat shape upside-down. Pinch one end to appear pointed.
4. Pierce the clay with a pointed object like a skewer. Create a pattern with the holes.
5. When the clay dries, decorate with paint and eyes. Glue or tape ribbons to create arms and tentacles. Cut out two paper triangles to create fins.
6. Activate the glow stick. Fold it in half and tape it to the bottom of the jellyfish. 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!

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 jellyfish, 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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