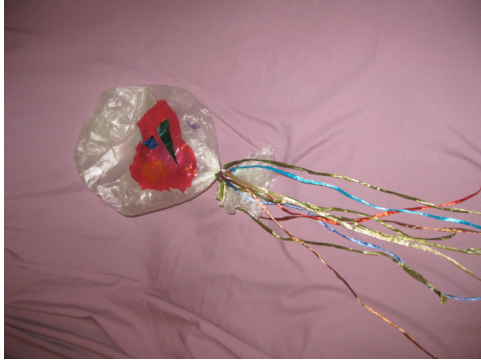


# Plastic Bag Jellyfish



## Materials:

- Plastic grocery or produce bag/s
- Six pack rings and/or bubble wrap
- Tissue Paper or cellophane scraps
- Rubber band
- Glue
- (These are suggested materials, be creative)

## Procedure:

### *Simple Version*

- Decorate the top 2/3rds of your bag with tissue paper or cellophane scraps. Or you could color the bag with markers being careful not to tear the bag (top being the closed end).
- While your bag dries, cut your six pack rings and bubble wrap strips. Or you can use other long skinny materials (streamers, yarn, etc.).
- Blow up your bag and close it off with a rubber band.
- Attach the six pack ring/bubble wrap strips by slipping one end under the rubber band.

### *To make your jelly more anatomically correct...*

- Find some pictures of jellies to use as motivation.
- Use a bag of the appropriate color for the jelly you are creating.
- Cut circles out of the tissue paper/cellophane to represent gonads, eye spots, or stomach (each type of jelly is a little different).
- Have the six pack rings be tentacles and bubble wrap or streamers be oral arms, make them appropriate lengths.

## Did you know?

Many animals love to eat jellies, including sea turtles and sharks. Unfortunately, plastic bags floating in the ocean tend to look a lot like jellies. Predators often eat the bags not knowing the difference, and end up choking or suffocating.

Many scientists prefer to call them “jellies” rather than “jellyfish” because these invertebrates are not actually fish. They are boneless and brainless animals that belong to the phylum Cnidaria (the C is silent), a group that also includes anemones and corals. Their “sting” comes from stinging cells called nematocysts that inject venom into potential prey. Nematocysts function like a harpoon; the piercing structure is connected to the cell so it can be pulled back in after being launched. Anemones also have nematocysts. However theirs are not strong enough to pierce our skin, so the tentacles just feel sticky to us.

*Jelly Anatomy*  
(Image from animalcorner.co.uk)

