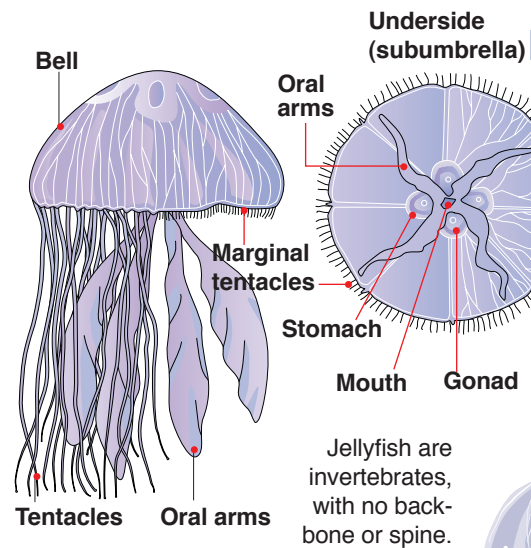


SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2012

Anatomy 101

Jellyfish are about 98 percent water, and most are transparent and bell-shaped. They have very simple bodies, without bones, brains or hearts. Sensory nerves on their tentacles allow them to detect and respond to light, scents and other stimuli.



The basics

Jellyfish are free-swimming marine animals closely related to sea anemones, sea whips, corals and hydroids. They are common in shallow waters around the world. (A few live in deep water.) Most live in warm, tropical salt water, but a few species are found in fresh water.

Jellyfish are carnivores (meat eaters) and feed on fish, shrimp, crabs and other jellyfish. They don't hunt their food or attack people, but drift along eating as often as they can. Sea turtles like to eat jellyfish.

All jellyfish sting, even dead ones. Generally, the stings of small jellyfish and those with short tentacles are not too painful to people. When you're at the beach, watch out for jellyfish on the shore and in the water.

World of Wonder

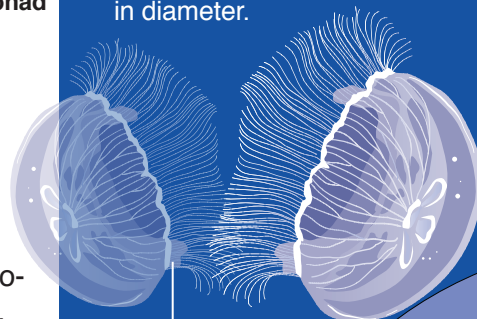
EXPLORING THE REALMS OF HISTORY, SCIENCE, NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY

JELLYFISH

Box jellyfish are the deadliest jellyfish in the world. They grow up to 10 feet (3 m) long and weigh up to 4.4 pounds. Box jellyfish are also called sea wasps and marine stingers.

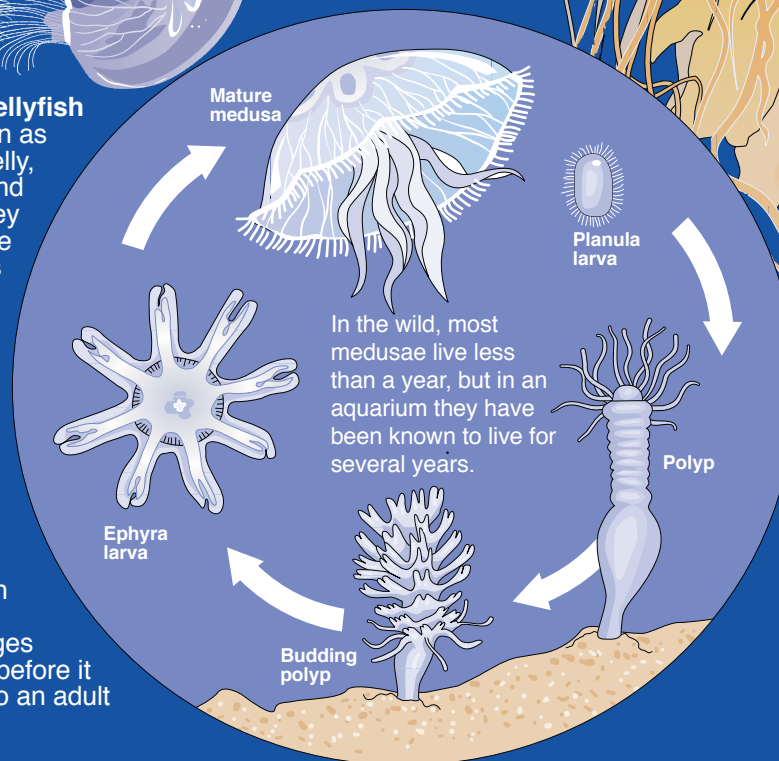
These mysterious marine creatures are known for their translucent beauty and painful sting. They have made the oceans their home for millions of years — long before the dinosaurs.

Cannonball jellyfish can grow up to 10 inches (25 cm) in diameter.



The **moon jellyfish** is also known as the saucer jelly, moon jelly and sea jelly. They grow as large as 18 inches (45 cm) in diameter. The moon jelly is popular with home aquarium enthusiasts.

A jellyfish goes through a number of different stages (and forms) before it develops into an adult medusa.



Lion's mane jellyfish tend to live near the surface. They are the largest jellyfish. Southern species have bells about 20 inches (50 cm) in diameter, while northern species can reach 8.2 feet (2.5 m), with tentacles as long as 98 feet (30 m).

The **Portuguese man-of-war** floats on a gas-filled blue, pink or purple translucent body 3 to 12 inches (9 to 30 cm) long. Although it looks like a jellyfish, it is not. It is a **siphonophore** — a colony of many creatures called zooids. The man-of-war's stinging tentacles can grow up to 156 feet (50m) long. Its poison won't kill a human, but the sting is painful.

The **purple-striped jelly** is generally found in Monterey Bay, Calif. This is a large jellyfish that can grow up to 2.3 feet (70 cm) in diameter.



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