

# Animal Facts:

## Jellyfish

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Jellyfish are sea creatures with bell shaped, jelly like bodies, and long stinging tentacles.



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Biologists call jellyfish medusa, after the mythical Greek goddess Medusa, who had wriggling snakes for hair.



Jellyfish belong to a large group of sea creatures called cnidarians, which also includes corals and anemones.



Unlike anemones, jellyfish float about freely, moving by squeezing water out from beneath their body. When a jellyfish stops squeezing, it slowly sinks.



A jellyfish's tentacles are covered with stinging cells called nematocysts, which are used to catch fish and for protection. The stinging cells explode when touched, driving tiny poisonous threads into the victim.





Jellyfish  
vary in size  
from a few  
millimetres  
to over 2 m.



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The bell of  
one giant  
jellyfish  
measured  
2.29 m  
across. It's  
tentacles were  
over 36 m  
long.



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The Portuguese man of war is not a true jellyfish, but a collection of hundreds of tiny animals called polyps which live together under a gas filled float.



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The Purple jellyfish can be red, yellow or purple.



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The box jellyfish has one of the most deadly poisons. It can kill a human in 30 seconds.

