



## Lesson: Make a Sea Creature

**Artform: Visual Art**

**Skill Level: Medium**

**Teaching Artist: Raymond Jimenez**

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Teach students that sculpture and art materials are only limited to your imagination.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Sculpture is one of the most varied mediums; there are so many different ways to create sculpture with so many different materials! Today we will use plastic bags and paper plates to make undersea life, and hopefully a better understanding of jellyfish.

### MATERIALS

- Paper plates or cardboard that can be cut into a circle.
- Markers/crayons, colored pencils
- Scissors
- String, ribbon or dental floss for hanging the jellyfish
- Crepe paper, tissue paper or plastic bags for the jellyfish tentacles
- Tape

### ACTIVITIES

1. Show the recycled art example below. Ask the following questions:
  - a. What is this?
  - b. What is this made out of?
  - c. How did they make it?
  - d. How long do you think it took?
  - e. Is this art?
2. Show the students the images of a jellyfish and ask them to identify them.
3. Tell the students we will be making our own jellyfish, and to think about what they want them to look like.
4. Pass out the paper plates and coloring art supplies. (If you have cardboard, you may pre-cut them or have the students trace a plate or other round bottomed object to make a circle).
5. Put the plate upside down. Inform the students that this is the top of their jellyfish, and have them design it the way they see fit. Ask them:
  - a. What color do you think your jellyfish should be?
  - b. What designs do you want on your jellyfish?

6. Once they are done coloring, have them cut four wedges out of the sides of the plate (See **Example 1**).
7. Have the students cut two small holes in the center with scissors so they can hang the jellyfish later. If they struggle, use scissors to poke a hole, or fold the plate into quarters and cut the two holes.
8. Have the students run a string or ribbon through the hole you made in step 7 and knot it. This will be how the students will hold or hang the Jellyfish.
9. Have the students tape the corners together on the inside of the plate so it has more of a bell shaped curve, see **Example 2**. You may have to hold the corners together while they tape it.
10. Next, pass out the materials for the tentacles and let them tear or cut the strips. Some strips can be thin and some can be thick. Make some long and some short. 10 is a good number of tentacles.
11. Once they've cut a good number of strips, hold the jellyfish upside down and the students can then tape the tentacles on the inside around the inside of the plate.
  - a. Tell them to focus on the edges and center.
  - b. Challenge them to completely cover the rim with tentacles.
12. They're done! Hang it up and watch the wind catch the tentacles. You just made a new jellyfish, what should we name it?

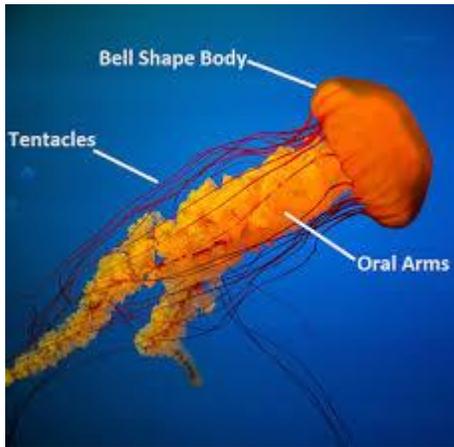
#### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INCLUDING ALL CHILDREN**

For those who struggle with scissors, tearing strips of paper is a good substitute, as is tissue, or just lots of string.

Larger markers or crayons may help students who have difficulty holding smaller pencils and other writing utensils.



Example of recycled art by Robert Bradford.  
What materials do you see?



A real Jellyfish



Example 1. Cut wedges out of the sides so the plate can assume a "bell" shape.



Example 2. While you hold the corners together, have the student tape them on the inside. Do this for each of the four cut areas.



Example 3. Tape the strips you made for the tentacles under the rim of the plate. The more the better.

Sample of finished jellyfish hanging from string.

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